



Leader Guide – Weekly Gathering

Romans 5:12-19 • March 4, 2007 • by Jeff Retter

Opening (5 minutes)

Take time as leaders to welcome people and set a tone of joy and openness in community.

Check-in Time (15 minutes)

If we visited your house, what would we see that is unique? What would you want to show us?

Centering Worship (10 minutes)

Simply invite two or three people to offer spoken prayers on behalf of the group.

Sharing (15 minutes)

Questions you might use during this time:

- Where have you experienced God this week?
- What stood out to you as you used the exercises this week?
- What exercise or section of Scripture caught your attention and why?
- Ask group members to look back over their journals and share some things that catch their attention.
- Ask group members to look back at the last worship gathering on Sunday. Where did they experience God?
- What did you notice (sense, feel, think, learn) this week as we gathered for worship?
- How did God show up in your life this week?
- How have you been intentional in creating space to listen to Christ this week?
- How have you noticed Christ calling you to “live out love” this week?

Group Listening Practice (40 minutes)

Read the following quote from Beth Moore:

Hebrews 10:22 says, “Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart.” I’m talking about a “no-bull” approach. Spill the beans. Tell Him exactly what is bothering you and why you think your conscience is still gnawing at you. If you realize your hang-up is unbelief, confess it as sin. Take no pride with you to that altar.

If you realize you’ve never repented of the sin, repent with all your might. Pour out your heart before God. He is a refuge for you (Ps. 62:8). He will not reject you or forsake you. He’s been waiting for you to come to him for relief. He knows better than you that a guilty conscience will hamstring you from pressing on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of you (Phil. 3:12).

Get every bit of it out of your system. Play the old tape for Him (by telling Him all about what you feel and can’t seem to release) and let Him hear what you keep hearing in your own mind, heart, or conscience word for word. Withhold absolutely nothing.

(Beth Moore, *When Godly People Do Ungodly Things*, pp. 269-270)

Now encourage people to prepare to do what this quote encourages us to do, “draw near to God with a sincere heart.”

Read the quote one more time and leave a few moments for people to reflect and draw near to God.

Now invite people to listen to the following Scriptures. Feel free to read these or choose three group members to be ready to read them.

- 1 John 5:14-15
- Philippians 4:6-7
- Revelation 8:3-4

Now we are going to take some time to share and pray with a partner. We encourage you to share with each other the things that might hinder you as you seek to "give up," "dig in," and "look deep." What things seem to be a block to you? Are there ways someone can pray for you? Do you have desires that they could join you in praying for?

Take a few minutes to have one person share and be prayed for and then switch. You might want to pray in silence for a while or simply name some of the prayers out loud. Join with each other in this time of prayer. Offer the fragrant incense before God.

Give people time to pray with a partner.

Gather back together and share what it was like to pray in this way.

Close by re-reading Revelations 8:3-4 and take a moment to thank God for hearing our prayers.

Closing (5 minutes)

Remind people about the Lent website and the resources there (www.nfclent.wordpress.com).