



Discussion Guide

Get Started

Welcome! What brings you here today? Invite everyone to introduce themselves and share something they're looking forward to or hoping for out of this next hour or so.



Ok, time to pause with all those good things. Slowly, starting at the top, squeeze then loosen your muscles. When you get to your toes, let them wiggle down into the floor, into that deeper place of being loved exactly as you are... and too much to stay that way. What you will share with others is a question for later, this moment is for you to listen to your own loved, real self. Take a minute...

Reflect & Discuss

I'm with you...and I want you to be with me.

- So, wisdom. How do you know it when you hear, feel or see it? Or when something is posing as wisdom? Share some real life examples and memories.
- Can the Bible still surprise you? Has it ever? Could it? Why and why not? (Listen and dig for the variety of responses to this in the room, in yourselves. How can you learn from *that* together?)
- What wisdom or surprises do you hear or wonder about in this week's unpacking of the account of Jesus' life from Matthew?
 - What would this mean for you, personally?
 - What could this mean for our communities, nation, world?

Close

Take a minute yourself to look through the ground rules. Star one you feel you practiced well during this time and circle one you could use more practice with.

What is something you will take away from this time? Leave space for everyone to contribute.



Show Up. Expect Growth. Build Trust.

Ground Rules for significant relationships

Be present as fully as possible (doubts/convictions, fears/hopes, failings/successes; listening/speaking, giving/receiving...).

Share only what you want when you want. It's your call.

Confidentiality. Always ask before sharing anything outside the group, even if it is with the most supportive of intentions.

Respect others by avoiding the temptation to interpret, correct or offer unsolicited advice.

Questions over answers. Practice responding with honest, open questions.

Wonder over judgement. Starting to feel judgmental? Get curious. *I wonder what's behind that perspective. I wonder what my own strong reaction might mean.*

Do you. You learn from others for sure, but this is a unique chance to pause and listen to what's going on in you. This is perhaps the most simple (yet difficult) and potent thing you will do - for yourself and your group.

Welcome silence. The world is noisy enough. After someone talks, take a breath and let Silence have a voice in your Group.

Show Up. Expect Growth. Build Trust

Be present. Share only what you want when you want. Confidentiality. Respect.
Questions over answers. Wonder over judgement. Do you. Welcome silence.