SMALL GROUP

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 6

This is a weekly guide designed to help you lead effectively and confidently. You'll find advice on leading well, answers to the discussion questions, information on church wide events, and more.

Baptisms coming right up!

We'll be celebrating baptisms during our weekend services soon! We encourage you to invite anyone in your small group who hasn't yet taken this important step of obedience to consider being baptized. You can use the link below to sign up. As a group, take a moment to pray for those who will be baptized—and for others who are still deciding—that the Holy Spirit would stir their hearts to take this next step of faith.

https://www.cornwallchurch.com/baptism/

Coaching Tip

Healthy Ways to Deal With Conflict

1. **Bible Verses on Conflict Resolution:** Here are two key passages worth your focus. Matthew 18:15-17 and Galatians 6:1
2. **Identify the Underlying Issue:** Like a massive iceberg that barely rises above the surface of the water, many of the issues that surface have a more significant component that needs to be addressed. Figure that out.
3. **Involve Only the People in Conflict:** Unless the whole group is embroiled in the issue, keep communication limited to the parties directly involved.
4. **Avoid Gossip:** Do not debrief the situation with others - even as a prayer request. Fight the temptation to vent, over share, or include others that are loosely related but not directly involved.
5. **Ask the Parties Involved to Meet and Work it Out:** Unless needed, don't play judge or jury. Many conflicts can be worked through by those affected.
6. **Seek Input from a Pastor or Elder if the Issues Isn't Resolved:** Seek wisdom from the right church official only if the matter requires more attention.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Fall 2026: week 6

In Luke 18, Jesus's ministry is in full swing. He speaks of praying, cautioning against pride, allowing children to come to him, and advising a rich man to sell everything he has. None of these were understood or welcomed messages. The Pharisees used their image to flaunt themselves, children were to steer clear of adults they didn't know, and the rich generally like keeping their money to themselves.

Jesus turned everything the people thought they knew on its head. His message was confusing to some, disquieting to others. Today's small group questions encourage members to think about where they stand with Jesus's teachings. To some, it may still confuse and others disquiet. As we discuss the questions, let's pray for the Spirit to reveal to our hearts what He wants us to know.

Getting To Know You

Ice-breakers are designed to establish common ground, help you get to know other people, and share a little bit about your life.

1. **In what way/s are you and your spouse or closest friend very different and in what way/s are you very similar?**

2. **What is a rule that some find optional to follow but you always follow it?**

3. What minor achievement can you healthily brag about? Mastered the best cookie? Caught your largest fish ever?

Digging Deeper

These questions are designed to help you dig deeper into the sermon topic, relevant scriptures, and provide deeper opportunities for reflection.

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's sermon?

2. The people of Jesus's time had distinct opinions about these two groups of men: the Pharisees and the tax collectors; the first honored and the second vilified. Was this how you always saw it? Did the sermon help you see it in a new way?

3.Read Luke 18:9. Do you notice how the parable is introduced? "To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable:" Let that sit for a minute. Ouch!

-'confident of their own righteousness'...when have you experienced that?

-'who looked down on everybody else'...when have you experienced that?

Were you aware of it at the time or shortly after? Were you repentant?

It may take a long time to realize we've been guilty of this very common human emotion - confidence in our own way of seeing the world, but Jesus calls us to humility. Jesus has a message for us.

4. The tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up into heaven. Why do you think he 1. stood at a distance, and 2. not even look up into heaven?

- **Was there a time that you were so pressed to seek God's face that you didn't care about how you looked or what you said in front of others, just as long as you could seek God?**

5. If you grew up in the church, what rules did you feel adamant about following that may seem more for show? If you did not grow up in the church, were their rules that you thought were required for entry?

- **Do you think the world knows and receives this message from the church? Please explain.**

- **What are some ways Christians can reflect God's saving heart rather than a condemning attitude toward others?**

Application

The goal is life transformation, not simple discussion. Application is how we live differently because of this week's teachings and discussions.

1. Is there an area of your life in which you need to ask God to have mercy on you, a sinner? Can you adjust your prayers this week to add the simple, "have mercy on me, a sinner"?

2. What achievement or accomplishment needs to be seen in the light of what God has done in your life? Can you make it appropriately small?

Prayer Requests

Take time to record prayer requests here. Confidentiality is an important part of a healthy small group.