

GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

Life application materials for use in Life Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.

1. Icebreaker—the Superbowl is next Sunday! Share your favorite football memory with the group.

2. Read the message text (1 Peter 5:6-11) and look at the message outline to remind you of the message.
 - a. What was memorable from the message? Share it with the group.

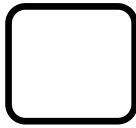
 - b. What question did the message raise in your mind? Discuss it as a group.

3. Read Mark 9:14-29. As this reading begins, Jesus is walking down from the Mount of Transfiguration with Peter, James and John. Jesus finds a situation: The real problem is obviously the suffering boy, but instead of caring for him, the disciples are locked in an argument with the teachers of the law.
 - a. What could they possibly be arguing about?
 - b. Of all the parties in this story (Jesus, the disciples, the teachers of the law, the boy, his father, the demon, the crowd), who is the only one who benefits from this argument?
 - c. A thought to ponder: Demons don't care what we are focused on, as long as it isn't Jesus.

4. Three factors made it intensely difficult for the boy's father to trust Jesus:
 - Someone he loved dearly was suffering.
 - The suffering dragged on for a long time.
 - The help he hoped for failed.What about Jesus can comfort us in situations like this? What promises of Jesus counter these factors and give us hope?

5. In verse 25 we see the power of our Savior! But even in verse 25, we can see that this display of power isn't Jesus' primary goal—he doesn't want attention. But in verses 19, 22-23, and 28-29 Jesus refocuses the people in this reading. For each of those verses, show how Jesus is bringing the focus back to faith.

6. Did you notice how Jesus invited the boy's father to speak his fear out loud ("If you can")? And how as soon as the man heard his doubt out loud he was more able to recognize it (help me overcome my unbelief)? Fear grows in silence, but withers in the light of God's truth. In groups of three, share something that is bringing you anxiety. Pray for each other, focusing each other on Jesus' power and promises.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points.

Meet the Man Who Defied Demons for You Be Lion-Alert and Not Lion Dessert

I Peter 5:6-11 (Bible page 1224)

Introduction: *In the jungle, the mighty jungle, the lion sleeps tonight.*

I. Humble yourself (vv. 6, 7).

- A. Humbling ourselves means to g_____ something up—in this case anxieties.
- B. Anxiety = diversion. Martha was diverted from the one thing n_____.
- C. To cast = to place into a bag and give to G_____ to carry.
- D. Paul says, “Do not be anxious about anything...” but p_____” (Philippians 4:6).

II. Practice self-control (vv. 8, 9).

- A. It is easy to get l_____ into a false sense of security.
- B. The devil does not give up easily.
- C. To be sober means to have a c_____ h_____.
- D. “The devil climbs over the fence where it’s the lowest.” (Martin Luther)
- E. We stand firmly in the faith when we stand firmly on G_____ W_____.

III. Rely on grace (vv. 10, 11).

- A. Only God’s grace will deliver us from Satan’s attacks.
- B. Thank God that he is a God of undeserved love who...
 - p_____ us up every time we fall, and
 - p_____ that he will restore us and make us strong, firm, and steadfast.
- C. Can you imagine the shock of Satan when Jesus showed up on Easter morning?
- D. “Where God builds a cathedral, there Satan builds a chapel.” (Martin Luther)

Conclusion: Humble yourself, trust God, remain faithful, and stand firm in the faith.

My Next Steps

Memorize I Peter 5:7 – *Cast all your anxieties on him because he cares for you.*

Read Mark 9:2-9 for next week’s Transfiguration sermon on *Meet the Man Whom the Father Loves.*

Commit to carving out ten minutes a day to be in Scripture to build yourself up against Satan’s attacks.

Practice James’ advice, “Yell a loud ‘no’ to the devil and watch him make himself scarce” (James 4:7), when he accuses you of sin.