

# **PROJECT 4-4**

## **Journey Group Discussion Guide**

---

**March**

# PROJECT 4:4

Hi, we're glad you have a copy of the Journey Group discussion material for Project 4:4. We hope this will help your faith grow as you engage God's Word in exciting ways through out the year.

Allow us to give you a couple tips to make this material most helpful for your Journey Group.

1. The discussion guides are designed to highlight a passage from a particular day from each week's reading. An average 4 week month will have 4 discussion guides that your group can use. If your group meets before the chosen passage for that week is read, simply use the discussion material from the previous week.
2. This material is intended to be used by every group member. Leaders, make sure everyone in your group has access to it so they can be prepared for the discussions.
3. Remember that the goal is life transformation. Help your group's discussions move into the life change arena by keeping the "so what?" in mind. How should this information impact our thoughts, attitudes, or actions? What change is God calling us to make...and how can you see that change happen in your life?

God's Word is living and active and has the power to change the course of our lives. We pray that your life will be forever changed as you explore the Bible together this year!

February 27

Verses on Fairness & Justice

Page 262

General discussion from this weeks reading:

- What did you learn about God in these passages?
- What did you learn about people in these passages?
- How will you integrate these things in your life?

Specific discussion:

Opening thought

Tell about an experience you have had in the legal system (this could be interesting!) **OR** Tell about a time that you felt that justice was not served (this can be something small and funny or something significant).

Discuss

What instructions did God give the Israelites in these verses to protect justice? What does God's attention to justice among His people reveal about His character?

In what way is God's justice is an essential part of His character? How would it change our human relationships if God was not just? How would it change our relationship with Him?

In Deut. 24:17-18, God tells the Israelites to treat vulnerable people (aliens, fatherless, widows) with fairness because Israel was once in that position before He rescued them out of Egypt. How does this concept parallel the role of forgiveness in our lives?

Have someone read Micah 6:6-8 (page 811). In these verses, we find that God gives us a clear call to act justly. What does it mean to *act justly*? What does it look like for an individual to act justly? How would a group (Journey Group, church, etc.) act justly?

Reflection: Since justice is an important part of God's character, and we are called to mirror God, how can we appropriately reflect His justice in our world? Can you identify a way that you can do this individually? How can we as a group act justly in our broken world?

March 7

Deuteronomy 30:11-20

Page 301

General discussion from this weeks reading:

- What did you learn about God in these passages?
- What did you learn about people in these passages?
- How will you integrate these things in your life?

Specific discussion:

Opening thought

Think about a time when you had to guide someone in making a decision between right and wrong. What were some things to consider to help them make the right choice?

Discuss

Moses reassures the people that what the Lord is commanding is "not too difficult or beyond their reach." Why do think this was an important reminder for Moses to give to the people before he gave them the covenant? Have God's ways ever felt unattainable to you?

Moses sets before the Israelites the terms of God's covenant with them at Moab - follow God and choose life or go your own way and choose death. What were the choices that would lead to life and what were the choices that would lead to death? What were the promises attached to choosing life?

How do we see God's heart for his people displayed through this covenant?

A principle we see throughout the story of scripture is that God's ways lead to life. How have you seen this theme play out in several of the stories we have read up to this point?

Look up John 1:4, John 10:10, I John 3:14, I John 5:2-3, I John 5:11-12. What do these verses in the New Testament share in common with the passage of the Old Testament that we read today?

Reflection: Just like the Israelites, we are given a choice to choose life or not. How have you experienced the blessing of choosing to do life God's way? How have you experienced the consequences of choosing to do life your own way? How is God calling you to live His way in your current circumstances?

March 17

Judges 2:7-15

Page 347

General discussion from this weeks reading:

- What did you learn about God in these passages?
- What did you learn about people in these passages?
- How will you integrate these things in your life?

Specific discussion:

Opening thoughts

What is something positive in your family that has been passed on through the generations? It could be a tradition, a value, great recipe etc.

Discuss

What was different about the new generation that was introduced in your reading? What do you think contributed to the spiritual drift of this generation?

What was a result of their decision to turn away from God and serve idols? Do you think God was just? Gracious? Both?

This passage shows a clear breakdown in the passing of knowledge and faith between the generations. What does this teach us about mankind's tendency and our own responsibility to the next generation?

What are some ways we can be intentional about imparting our love for God and His faithfulness to the next generation?

Reflection: Are you passing on the spiritual investment made in your life to those who are coming after you? If so, how have you seen God at work to shape the next generation? If not, what is keeping you from being able to say yes?

# PROJECT 4:4

March 22

Ruth

Page 368-369

General discussion from this weeks reading:

- What did you learn about God in these passages?
- What did you learn about people in these passages?
- How will you integrate these things in your life?

Specific discussion:

Opening Thought

Tell about a time when you had to say goodbye to something or someone you loved?

Discuss

In chapter 1 Ruth chose to go with Naomi back to Bethlehem. In doing this, what was she choosing to give up? When was the last time that your choice to pursue God cost you something?

As a whole, what can we learn from Ruth's character about living a life in devotion to God? i.e. in her decisions, in her work, in her relationships, in her behavior...etc

God blessed Ruth and Naomi by providing Boaz as their kinsman-redeemer. How had Boaz redeemed Ruth and how do we see that as an ultimate picture of Christ?

God blessed Boaz and Ruth with a son and through their lineage we find King David and eventually Jesus Christ himself. What does this tell you about God and his desire to bless people who choose to follow Him?

Reflection: Ruth was a woman who made sacrificial decisions in order to follow after God. How does her life challenge you to take your walk with God seriously?

# PROJECT 4:4

March 29

I Samuel 14:1-23

Page 400-401

General discussion from this weeks reading:

- What did you learn about God in these passages?
- What did you learn about people in these passages?
- How will you integrate these things in your life?

Specific discussion:

Opening Thought

Are you someone who likes to take risks? Why or why not?

Discuss

Discuss the context of the passage. What has happened in the previous chapter and what is the current situation?

What decision for action does Jonathan make with his armor bearer? Based on these verses, does Jonathan have a guarantee from God that this will work? What do you think motivates him to take this risk?

Jonathan and his armor bearer proceed by faith to attack the Philistines. Do you find walking by faith something that comes natural to you or is it more difficult? Why?

Like Jonathan, do you have people in your life who are willing to support you in your faith? If so, how have they helped you follow God? Are there any ways this group can better support and encourage each other in our faith?

God delivered Israel because one man by faith said, "perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf". In Hebrews 11:6 we read that "without faith it is impossible to please God." Why do you think God experiences pleasure when his children walk by faith?

Reflection: What "perhaps" scenario are you facing? Is there a decision you need to make but you are afraid to take a risk and walk by faith? What is holding you back from thinking God may act on your behalf?