

HOW DO WE DISCUSS SERMONS WITHOUT A DISCUSSION GUIDE?

We don't write discussion guides during the summer and holiday weeks when most groups are not meeting. If this happens when your group plans to meet, here's what you might consider. You may want to do that DVD based series you've been thinking about or you can use the following guidelines to lead most any sermon discussion. We do, however, encourage you to customize these questions based on the sermon you just heard *before* you meet.

This document is in Microsoft Word format so that you can save a copy and create your own guide.

POSSIBLE ICEBREAKER

- Our bookstore/library has some great icebreaker resources. (Here are some favorites):
 - If your house was burning down, what three objects would you try and save?
 - If you could talk to any one person now living, who would it be and why?
 - What's your favorite thing to do in the summer?
 - What was the best thing that happened to you this past week?
 - If you had this week over again, what would you do differently?
 - What book, movie, or video have you seen/read recently that you would recommend?
 - If you could do your dream job 10 years from now, what would it be?

[Note: In some cases the questions below will work just as they are written. Sometimes they will serve as inspiration for questions more relevant to the sermon. Use the questions that work, move on when they don't. It's rare that you will need them all. At least one question from each section is probably a good idea.]

OPENING THE DISCUSSION (1 or 2 Questions)

- As you reflect on Sunday's message, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful, or difficult to grasp?
- If that sermon had to be re-delivered, what two points or ideas would you encourage him to include no matter what?
- What's one thing from last weekend's sermon that you hope we talk about as a group?
- Was there any one thing that you most agreed with or disagreed with from last weekend's message? What was it and why?

DIGGING DEEPER (1 or 2 Questions)

- Read [Insert main text from sermon here]
 - Reflecting on these verses, what strikes you most? Why?
 - What is most challenging in these verses? Encouraging? New?
 - If these verses were applied to our culture today, how would it change?

APPLICATION (Sometimes Best Asked During Prayer Time)

- When and where do you struggle the most with [whatever issue(s) this sermon raised]?
- If you were to incorporate this truth into your own life, how would the next week be different?
- Describe your life 1 year from now if you consistently applied this truth.
- How can we pray for you regarding this issue?