

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"STRENGTH IN COMMUNITY" FEBRUARY 19 & 20

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Often in our anxiety, depression and mental illness these things are given "identity rights" to define us and say who we are. In doing so they try to own us. In reality, God's Word speaks a true reality over us. We are redeemed, loved and cherished children of God. Anxiety, depression, and mental illness do not define us. We may battle these, but they are not our identity.

Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc. Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.

1

OPENING PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE:

About 3 minutes

Ask a volunteer to open in prayer.

2

BIG IDEA:

About 1 minute to read

Every single one of us is too weak to walk in faith alone. God enables us by the power of the Holy Spirit to be a community of faith, reminding each other of our true identity in Christ. We walk with each other in our pain, suffering, and sin. We are the body of Christ, if one part suffers, we all suffer, if one part rejoices, we all rejoice! We were not created to live in isolation, we were created to be in relationship with God and with each other.



February 19 & 20, 2022

In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. - 1 Corinthians 12:22, 26 NLT

Reflect

Read the full passage in your Bible - 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit highlighting from the scripture reading?

What might be God's invitation to you in this?

What might be God's challenge to you in this?

How might God be calling you to respond?
Be curious...and then do it.

DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?

What might God be inviting you to do?

3

INTRO QUESTION:

About 8 minutes

Think of an injury you had to one part of your body (foot, hand, eye, etc.) How did the injury impact the rest of your body with regard to what you could or could not do?

4

SCRIPTURE READING + GROUP DISCUSSION

About 40-45 minutes

For another perspective of this passage, read The Message version. (If you don't have a hard copy, you can download the YouVersion Bible app for many Bible translations free.)

Share a story where each person provided only a part of what was needed for a situation, but it all worked together for good and God's glory.

How have you been blessed by seeing God's strength and power in the lives of others, especially when in earthly terms, they might seem weak?

Share a story of how being together with other Jesus followers in the midst of a tough time was helpful. What did those who were with you do, or not do, that brought you comfort?

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:7b,8,17-20. How does sharing the good and bad of our lives with each other become a delight and help us to love one another better?


5 LIVE IT OUT:


About 2 minutes to assign as homework or 10 minutes to read in group and share a thought or two.

Read this section aloud. Invite the group to take the steps suggested. You can do the extra credit in group if there is time or assign as "homework" if you prefer.


For extra credit, look up these passages and reflect on how we are better together: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Ephesians 5:19, John 13:34-35, 1 John 3:16, and Romans 12:9-18.

TAKE IT DEEPER



Live It Out 

This week prayerfully consider taking the next step in your faith journey by reaching out to connect with other Jesus followers. Maybe you are to encourage someone or maybe you are the one who needs to be encouraged, or maybe both. Resist the temptation to isolate by praying and initiating connection.

Pray 

Talk to God about what part or role you play in the body of Christ.

Express to God how you have or haven't felt supported and cared for in the family of God (in your weakness or suffering), and about how you've been able to offer support and care.

Thank God that he has given you community and relationships that are life giving.

6

CLOSING GROUP PRAYER:

About 15 minutes

Read the prayer section on the card aloud, and take a few moments of silence for each person to reflect on the prayer prompt personally.

Share prayer requests in pairs. Pray using the Scripture Card prompts.

The leader may close the group time with the prayer below:

Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us so much that even while we were yet sinners, You died for us. You pull us out of the mud and the mire of our sin. You call us as Your own and give us a place in Your body of believers where each part is valued and important to the whole. Help us to share our lives with one another receiving and providing support just as a body meant to do. When one part suffers, we all suffer and when one part is honored, we are all honored. Teach us to live as Your holy people and let our relationships be life-giving examples of You. Amen