

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"ARE WE THERE YET?" AUGUST 22 & 23

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Summer is a great time for a road trip. In this summer of new normals, we might not get an opportunity to take a physical road trip. But what if we took a road trip of faith? What can we learn from the journeys of followers of God who have gone before us?

*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:

About 1 minute

Ask for a volunteer from the group to open in prayer. In addition, consider having each person read a verse from Psalm 130.

2

BIG IDEA:

About 10 seconds to read

Are we there yet?! It's the slogan of every road trip. The ride gets long, and we get tired. Sometimes we want to ask the God the same question. The world seems like a mess. Why doesn't he fix it? Why doesn't he do something? Why doesn't he come back? How does God answer when we ask, "Are we there yet?!"



August 22 & 23, 2020

"Look! I am sending my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. Then the Lord you are seeking will suddenly come to his Temple. The messenger of the covenant, whom you look for so eagerly, is surely coming," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. - Malachi 3:1 NLT

Reflect

Read the full passage in your Bible - Malachi 2:17-3:7.

What sticks out or grabs your attention from the scripture readings?

Roughly four hundred years passed between the promise of Malachi 3:1 and its fulfillment (with John the Baptist and Jesus). What does this tell you about God's timing?

God's plea in the scriptures is, return to me. What does this tell you about God's heart? Do you believe that that's his heart for you?

4

SCRIPTURE READING + GROUP DISCUSSION:

About 40–45 minutes

Read the entire scripture passage aloud as a group and discuss the questions on the card above. Use the [Discussion Help sidebar](#) to encourage deeper discussion.



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(S):

About 15 minutes

If you could have God fix one thing today, what would it be and why?





5 LIVE IT OUT:

About 5 minutes

Read this section aloud. Invite the group to take the steps suggested. Discuss how you could live these out as an individual or a group in the next week to two weeks.

Read and reflect on Psalm 139 through the week. Consider a daily alarm on your phone or a group text encouraging you in this daily "heart check". Share next time how you God is working in your life to transform you.

TAKE IT DEEPER

 WORSHIP  GROW  SERVE  REACH

Live It Out

*Each day this week, give yourself a spiritual heart check.
How are you doing in following Jesus each day?*

*Daily invite God to refine you, to transform you and to
renew your mind in the truth that he is good and he
is faithful.*

Pray

Talk to God about what's stirring in your heart from
the scriptures. Listen for his response.

What would it mean for you to return to the Lord, to come
clean with your sins and humble yourself before God? Go
to God with this.

Thank him for his mercy and compassion.

6

CLOSING GROUP PRAYER:

About 15 minutes

Read the prayer section on the card aloud, and take a moment of silence for each person to reflect on the prayer prompt personally. Share personal prayer requests with the group. Pray in a circle prayer, praying for the person on your RIGHT. The leader may open the time of prayer with the following prayer below:

"Dear LORD, You are holy and just and we are not. We confess we do not understand your ways and we are broken and sinful people. Forgive us for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. We silently confess these things to you now... *[leave time for silent prayer]*

Thank you for Your unfailing love, mercy and compassion. Refine us and purify us that our lives will reflect Jesus in all we do and say. By the power of the Holy Spirit, lead us in Your Kingdom work bringing Your hope and healing to the world. We especially lift up these requests to you now... *[each group member to pray for the person on your RIGHT]* ...Amen."