

Discussion Pointers

- ❑ I've included a leader's guide and a group handout. The handouts have most of the material on the leader's guide minus the answers. I'll be making each study available online – please let me know if you need help making copies/printing.
- ❑ Community group leaders should read the entire leader's guide before the study. I've written sample answers with the intention that my reflections spark your own thinking. The answers then are designed to give you ideas on how you might guide the discussion. They're not the "right answers" to the questions.
- ❑ Try not to read through immediately before the study begins – allow time for prayer and for the Holy Spirit to work these things into your own heart.
- ❑ Starter questions are designed to be "ice-breaker", get-to-know you type questions. They can be used over dinner or to kick off the discussion. [If you come up with really successful starter questions on your own, please share them with me].
- ❑ Don't let the group "off the hook" easily. The purpose of these discussion questions is that our hearts would be opened up before God and His word and before each other. Sometimes it will take a few moments of silence. Sometimes it will take a few follow-up questions or a rephrasing of the question. Don't settle for the equivalent of "Jesus" and "God" answers that kids sometimes try to get away with in Sunday School. Pursue depth for the sake of gospel community!
- ❑ The questions are designed to be open-ended. This means that, for most of them, there is no one right answer. There are multiple ways of approaching the truth that each question is meant to draw out.
- ❑ The point of bible study/discussion is never "to get through the questions". The purpose of these studies is to hear God's word together with the hope that the Holy Spirit might make the Word living and real in our community groups. This means that sometimes only 1 or 2 questions get discussed, and that's ok.
- ❑ Feel free to re-word questions, add your own, and introduce other helpful material.