

# HOW TO USE THIS GROUP GUIDE

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## CONNECT (10 MINS)

- Pick one or more of the warm-up questions and have all the group members give a response to the question(s).
- Make sure everybody gets a chance to speak. Don't let talkative people dominate the conversation, but graciously welcome everybody to participate.

## TRUTH (15-20 MIN)

- Read the scriptures and paragraphs in this section to clearly communicate what the Bible says about the week's topic.
- **"DISCUSS" sections:** These sections get people discussing the practical implications of the truth being discussed. Have one or two people give an answer, but don't spend too much time on these questions.

## GRACE (5 MINS)

- Read the grace scripture and section which shows how the passage points to Jesus Christ and God's grace.
- This section is really important, because it shows that life change begins with the grace of God and not our own efforts.

## **CHANGE (10-15 MINS)**

- Have everyone give an answer to each of the change questions.
- Take a good amount of time here. Really encourage people to think through how they can practically put truth into action.

## **PRAYER (10-15 MINS)**

- Read through the prayer focus points and have one or two people in the group pray.
- Make sure not to rush through prayer. The things we want God to change in our lives will often happen through prayer.

## **DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN (2 MINS)**

- This final portion aims to get people reading the Bible for themselves and thinking about engaging others with the gospel.



**w/God**

**Week Three**  
**Finding Joy with God**

# Connect

*BREAK THE ICE AND  
GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- What was the happiest moment of your life?
- Does your relationship with God give you joy?

# Truth

*UNDERSTAND AND DISCUSS  
THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING*

This week, we're in the third part of our series *With God*.

This week, we'll be reading James' letter to his churches, and letting him remind us that *we draw near to what we desire*.

# RESISTING THE DEVIL

**READ:** James 4:1-7

**DISCUSS:** What does James say causes us to have "enmity with God", causes us to be God's enemies?

James points out that friendship with the world and ungodly desire make us turn away from God.

# DRAWING NEAR TO GOD

**READ:** James 4:7-10

**DISCUSS:** What does James promise will happen as we draw near to God?

As we draw near to God, God draws near to us! The humility we show in turning from our own way results in God "exalting" us, in Him raising us up.



# Grace

*SEE HOW THE PASSAGE CONNECTS TO JESUS*

***READ:*** James 4:10, slowly.

What is God's desire for you? What will He do to you if you let Him?

# Change

*APPLY THE PASSAGE TO OUR  
THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND ACTIONS*

- What would it mean for you to draw near to God?
- What do you need to give up for the sake of greater joy in God?
- What can you do to desire God more?

# Prayer

*RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER*

- Praise God that He gives joy freely to everyone who seeks Him.
- Ask God to draw you near to Him this week and increase your desire for Him.

## **DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN**

- Have you spent time with God consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're bringing Christ to?



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