

Thrive

Success that Matters

Title: **TRUST GOD'S WORD**

Date: NOVEMBER 5, 2023

Leader's Notes:

1. Start and end the life group on time.
2. Facilitate discussions with your group and **give all attendees opportunities to share their thoughts**. Encourage participation.

Life Group Discussion Proper

WORSHIP: (15 mins)

Option 1: In person - Home gatherings

Suggestions: Assign someone to lead worship or play two praise & worship songs from You Tube.

Option 2: In person gatherings at a public place (at the park, school campus or café) or Online home gathering (via Zoom or other online meeting platform)

Suggestions: Ask three to four people to share testimonies of answered prayers or ask the question: Ask the group, "What are you thankful to God about this past week?"

Main Text: Proverbs 3:5-6

Intro: God's dream for His children is to engage all of us in His kingdom's business – a rescue mission. Every believer has a role to fulfill in this divine purpose. His plan is for us to be involved in His rescue mission which is beyond human ability to accomplish. When we receive a revelation of the dream God has for us, it's essential to place our trust in Him at every stage of the journey.

WELCOME:(15 mins): IWC - Introduce yourself. Welcome guests/first-time visitors. Cheerfully call someone to do the same.

Ice-breaker: Ask the group and give time for participation.

- > *Is there anyone who would like to share a verse you have memorized this past week?*
- > *Is there anyone who would like to share something you received from your daily devotions this past week?*

WORD (30– 45 mins)

1. MEDITATE GOD'S WORD - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding..." Proverbs 3:5

We cannot live for God and fulfill His dream for our lives, relying on our own understanding. We need to grow in the knowledge of who God is and His will for our lives. We cannot expect God to bless a dream that is not His will.

Q: Have you experienced receiving a dream from the Lord? Would you share your dream?

Truth: What we daily meditate will dictate whether we will live for God or not. What we meditate will determine whether God's dream for us will be fulfilled or not.

Q: What do you mean by "meditate?"

The word "meditate" means, to ponder, to reflect or think about something and give it serious consideration. It also involves muttering or speaking what we are reading or thinking in our mind.

When we read the Word of God to ourselves, we say and hear the words in our head, which helps us to understand and remember them. Reading aloud increases this effect. God wants us to meditate His words so we can create a new thought pattern, hence the importance of memorizing or becoming familiar with His words.

God commanded Joshua to meditate His written word. Read: In Joshua 1:8

Q: O a scale of 1-10 (10 meaning you have a constant and regular time for Bible meditation), how is your Bible reading and meditation?

Continuation:

God told Joshua that his success in leading the Israelites to possess the promise land was dependent on the meditation and application of the first 5 books of the Bible, Genesis to Deuteronomy, which were the only books of the Bible available at that time.

God wants His people to honor Him by obeying His written word, the Scripture, which is "graphe" in Greek. It all starts with meditation.

"When we meditate upon Scripture, we invite Christ's Spirit to mold the way we think. As we meditate on a verse or phrase from Scripture, we'll often see biblical truth that we need to apply in our lives. Meditation of Scripture leads to transformation." Our Daily Bread

TRUTH 2: It is absolutely essential, if we intend to follow God and realize His dream for our lives, to make daily reading and meditation on God's written word, the Bible, a regular practice in order to lead a life of trust in Him.

Q: How important for all followers of Christ to have a daily Bible reading and meditation?

But God's Word is not just the written word, God speaks to us through His spoken word as well, which is "**rhema**" in Greek. The spoken word must be grounded in the written word to be considered a valid revelation from God. **MEDITATION OF SCRIPTURE PREPARES US TO RECEIVE RHEMA WORDS FROM GOD.** At the same time protects us from the enemy's deception!

Read: Matthew 4:4, Romans 10:17 NKJV

The word **faith** is "*pistis*" in Greek which literally means **trust**. Both logos and rhema, are vital for developing our trust and confidence in God.

TRUTH 3:

Joshua also needed God's spoken word (*rhema*) to guide him in possessing the promised land. For instance, God instructed them to march around Jericho once a day for six days and seven times on the seventh day, followed by the priests blowing trumpets and the people shouting loudly. This particular command was not written in the Pentateuch but it was a "**rhema**," a spoken word from the Lord.

TRUTH 4:

The early church meditated the Word of God to grow their faith. They studied the teachings of Christ: **Read Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 2:42a**

The apostles based their preaching and teaching of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ on the Old Testament, particularly the prophecies concerning the Messiah. They didn't have the New Testament during that time. The early church was also guided by God's spoken word, spoken to specific people. For example, the Lord spoke to the believers who were at His ascension. **Read Acts 1:8 NIV**

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST TAKE-AWAY FROM THE LESSON?

Tell your group to partner with someone and ask this question to their partner.

Q: What impacted you the most from this lesson?

WORK: The Challenge & Closing prayer (15 mins.)

1. Memorize a verse from your devotions this week and be prepared to share it on our next gathering.
2. Please take time in your smaller groups to pray for one another. If there are specific needs, take time to lift them up to God in prayer as well. Ask each other, "**what can I pray for you?**"

Leader's Notes:

1. Please remind your group the schedule for the next gathering.
2. Please ask your group to invite people for the next gathering.
3. Please encourage the group to remember to pray for one another during the week.