

Group discussion Each number below includes questions that relate to the scripture. I offer a few answers, but your perspective may be better. The point is to discuss, not to get 100% agreement. Rule of thumb: the fewer questions you ask, the better. Save time for “the big question.”

Read John 14:1-6 aloud.

1. What had occurred in John 13?

The setting is the last supper. Jesus washed the disciples’ feet and predicted his betrayal. And then he said he was going away. And Peter would disown him three times that night.

How do you think this conversation felt to the participants?

2. What has troubled your heart the most in the last month?

How does this trouble compare to other troubles you have experienced in the past?

3. How does trusting God help when your heart is troubled?

If you trust that God is aware, and powerful, and good, there are not many challenges that you are impossible. Despair is impossible when your partner is omnipotent!

What makes it hard to trust God?

We can see the big problems, but not the big God.

What increases your trust in God?

4. What kind of future does Jesus offer his followers?

How does having a future help you through troubling times?

5. How can we know the way to the Father? (6)

What does it mean to say Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life?

† **The big question** If you ask only one question, let this be it. Allow at least 20 minutes. Go around the circle and give each person an opportunity to answer. It’s okay if they pass, but at least they get a chance to respond.

The disciples misunderstood much of what Jesus said, and we struggle as well. What is the core message of Jesus that guides your life?

Does your group know about....?

1. Campaign (Feb. 15, 22, and Mar. 1)

We are setting aside three straight Sundays to discuss 2009 themes (compassion, outreach, and growth). Kevin will encourage everyone to attend a group during this series.

- a. People in LIFE groups go to regular group. Your group can go with an alternate plan – go to building or join others for three weeks, etc.
- b. People who are not in a LG can join Kevin at the building for a discussion period.
We will talk around tables. This will be an easier way for new people to experience a group.
- c. If we “borrow” someone from your group for the three weeks, please give them your blessing. Pray for them during your Feb. 1 meeting. Point out that their absence makes room for guests!

This is an ideal time to launch a new group. Let people know that it is okay for them to help start a new group – making room for more people is one of our key goals.

Talk about what your group will do those three weeks. Who could you invite? If your group could use 2-3 more families, you might join the table talks and recruit people.

2. Beans and Steak Night (March 5)

A celebration of what God did during the three-week campaign. If at least one guest attends your group during February, you get steak. If no guests, you’ll have a great time eating beans!

- A guest must be a potential group member (not your aunt from Missouri).
- A guest must attend in February.
- Honor system – you don’t have to turn in names to a “guest Nazi.”

Resources

Bible notes

- Verse 2 has taken on misguided implications, thanks to outdated English in the King James Version. In the 1600's, "mansion" meant a place or a room, but today we think of it as a fantastically expensive house. Heaven is not about materialism – resources will be so plentiful that they will hold no value (e.g., pavement of gold). The treasure will be relationships – seeing God in person and living in harmony with everyone! Give me a broom closet and I'll be thrilled.

Prayer ideas –

Pour out your troubles before God.

Express your trust.

Tell God your hopes for the future.

Kid-friendly activity. *An activity designed to help kids and adults grow in faith together. Do this first, then dismiss the kids so the adults can talk.*

Prayer of praise for the good things God is doing.

Ask each person to draw a picture of someone who has "gone away" (moved or died or whatever a child wants it to mean).

How did you feel when this person (or pet) left?

Read John 14:1-6 aloud.

Why were the disciples sad?

What did Jesus say to comfort them?

How can Jesus help us through our losses?

How can we help other people through times of loss?



February 1, 2009

LIFE Group Guide

John 14 – Trust God

By John Grant (jgrant@collegehills.org)

The theme for this meeting: **Trust God, even when your heart is troubled.**

This month's sermon series is "Life is hard, but God is good." This guide discusses some of Jesus' most comforting words, spoken to his disciples at a moment of disappointment.

Important dates for the next few weeks:

- Feb. 8 Service at College Hills
- Feb. 15 LIFE groups – A Year of Growth
- Feb. 22 LIFE groups -- A Year of Outreach
- Mar. 1 LIFE groups -- A Year of Compassion
- Mar. 5 Beans & Steak night for LG leaders
- Mar. 8 Service at College Hills

Serving opportunity: We are hosting Red Cross shelter training on Feb. 14. Call Carolyne Humphreys if your group is interested (754-5079). Attending the training does not obligate you to work at a shelter.

Leadership tip: Always comment on the comment. It takes courage for people to speak up in front of a group, so thank them and interact with them. Focus on the speaker, not the next question.

Relate *Use a few to introduce the theme, check everyone's spiritual pulse, and "break the ice." No right or wrong answers – maybe goofy but not wrong! Look for opportunities to affirm and encourage through these questions.*

- ❖ Who would fit well as a future member of our group?
If someone brings a guest in February, you will get steak on March 5.
- ❖ How will you celebrate Groundhog Day (tomorrow)?
- ❖ What is your favorite pizza?
- ❖ Who will you cheer for in the Super Bowl?