



Sugar Grove Life Groups

Are You Sure You Want God To Work In Our Midst?!

Healthy Groups Keep A Balance In What They Do: Spend equal amounts of time connecting with each other (Fellowship), prayer and sharing how God is working in your life (Worship), growing in your faith through study and discussion (Discipleship), serving others both inside and outside your group (Ministry), and reaching out to those around with the message of Jesus Christ (Evangelism).

PREPARE:

- ⊙ How are you doing? Catch us up on your life. What has been a high and a low in your life since this group last met? How have you seen God work in your life since this group last met?
- ⊙ What is the most difficult thing you have ever had to do?

GROW:

- ⊙ Read Exodus 5:1-2
- ⊙ How much courage did it take for Moses and Aaron to go before the most powerful leader in the world and tell him that God wanted him to release his entire work force?
- ⊙ Pharaoh said he did not know the Lord. What does it mean to know the Lord?

- ⊙ Read Exodus 5:3-23
- ⊙ Moses' words to Pharaoh caused incredible suffering for the Israelite slaves when their workload was tremendously increased which led to the Israelites blaming Moses for their problems.
 - ⇒ Why did God's work to free the Israelites from their oppression cause their situation to get worse?
 - ⇒ Put yourself in the 'shoes' of one of the Israelite slaves whose work load had just increased; Why did 'you' blame Moses instead of blaming Pharaoh or ultimately blaming God?! Why were 'you' not able to see the bigger picture of what God was doing through Moses instead of simply seeing the difficult ripples that God's plan produced?
 - ⇒ Why is the first reaction of the people of God to blame their leaders when things get difficult due to God's work in their midst? Do we do that today? (*before you answer this don't forget that the Israelites at this point in chapter 5 were having great difficulty recognizing that their difficulties were caused by God and not by Moses!*)
 - ⇒ Why does the process of God working in the midst of His people cause so much turmoil? Is God working in our midst today?...
 - ⇒ What can we do to help us to see the bigger picture of what God is doing instead of simply seeing the discomfort God's work has caused us?





SERVING & SHARING

- ⊙ Has your group discussed how it can serve and share?

PRAYER:

- ⊙ Have your group's prayer coordinator close your group time in the throne room of God.
- ⊙ Consider praying in one the following ways:
 - ⇒ Go around the circle and have each person pray what is on their heart.
 - ⇒ Break into small groups and spend time letting each group share deeper and then close with prayer.
 - ⇒ Go around the circle and lift the person on your left up in prayer.
 - ⇒ Place someone in the middle of the circle who has special prayer needs. Have everyone place their hands upon them and lift that person up in prayer.
 - ⇒ If your group has children let the adults pray together and then bring the children into the group so that the adults can circle around them and pray.
 - ⇒ Everyone get down on their knees and earnestly lift your requests to God.
 - ⇒ Sing a song of prayer to God.
 - ⇒ Let the women of the group pray for the men and then let the men of the group pray for the women.
 - ⇒ Spend an extended amount of time at the beginning of your group time after you have shared with each other how things are going in your life.