



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?
- ⊙ Why do people who live along the coast disbelieve that a hurricane could destroy their home or even kill them? Is there something in your life that you believed was not a serious threat to you until you experienced it?

GROW:

- ⊙ God is working to free the Israelites from bondage in Egypt through Moses. In chapter 6 we see God continuing to communicate with Moses followed by Moses attempting to help the Israelites believe what God is about to do in their midst– but it is not easy going for Moses...
- ⊙ Read Exodus 6:1
 - *'Then the LORD told Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh. When he feels the force of my strong hand, he will let the people go. In fact, he will force them to leave his land!"* (NLT)
 - ⇒ How powerful is God?!
- ⊙ Read Exodus 6:6-8
 - *"Therefore, say to the people of Israel: 'I am the LORD. I will free you from your oppression and will rescue you from your slavery in Egypt. I will redeem you with a powerful arm and great acts of judgment. I will claim you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God who has freed you from your oppression in Egypt. I will bring you into the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I will give it to you as your very own possession. I am the LORD!'"* (NLT)
 - ⇒ What is God asking Moses to tell the Israelites? What is he promising the Israelites?
 - ⇒ How should someone react who has been made this promise by God?
- ⊙ Read Exodus 6:9
 - *°So Moses told the people of Israel what the LORD had said, but they refused to listen anymore. They had become too discouraged by the brutality of their slavery.* (NLT)
 - ⇒ How could the 'brutality' of the slavery have affected the Israelites so deeply that they would not listen to





the promise of redemption that God was bringing to them through Moses?

⇒ Why do difficult circumstances sometimes cause people to stop believing God cares about them or desires to rescue them?

⇒ Have you ever or are you currently struggling with something so significant that you began to disbelieve that God cares about you or that he even exists?

⊙ Read Exodus 6:10-12

- ¹⁰Then the LORD said to Moses, ¹¹“Go back to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and tell him to let the people of Israel leave his country.” ¹²“But LORD!” Moses objected. “My own people won’t listen to me anymore. How can I expect Pharaoh to listen? I’m such a clumsy speaker! (NLT)

⇒ Notice how the Israelites’ disbelief that God would rescue them caused Moses to doubt that his message would be any better received by Pharaoh. The ‘body’ has caused the leader to doubt instead of the leader encouraging the ‘body’ to step out on faith. Was Moses a bad leader or does this point out the powerful influence the ‘body’ has upon the leadership?

⇒ The Israelites doubted God and caused Moses to doubt. Moses’ doubt probably contributed farther to the Israelites’ doubt. How can the downward spiral of doubt be stopped?

⇒ The doubt cycle between the Israelites and Moses can easily be applied to the church today. Can a congregation’s doubt cause the church leadership to begin to doubt? Does the church body influence the leadership as much as the leadership influences the body in the church? Why?

⇒ How would a church be transformed if everyone began to recognize their significant role in the church body? How would this small group be transformed if everyone recognized their significant role in this group? What would it take for this to happen?

PRAYER:

⊙ Have your group’s prayer coordinator close your group time in the throne room of God.

⊙ Consider praying in one of 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.