



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?
- ⊙ When you are traveling do you prefer to take the scenic route or the interstate? Why?

GROW:

- ⊙ Read Exodus 7:1-5.
- ⊙ God used Pharaoh's sin to harden his heart (See Romans 1:21-24). The result was that Pharaoh would not believe that God could cause him to free the Egyptians.
 - ⇒ Why can sin cause a person's heart to become hardened toward God?
 - ⇒ Have you known someone whose heart had become hard towards God? What happened in this person's life to cause this?
 - ⇒ Has your heart ever become hardened toward God? What caused this to happen? Has your heart become open to God again? If so, what caused this to happen?
 - ⇒ What does it take to help a person's heart become open to God?
 - ⇒ Do you know of someone right now whose heart is hardened toward God?
- ⊙ Pharaoh was stubborn and arrogant. He believed he was more powerful than God. But God was completely willing to do whatever was necessary to break Pharaoh's arrogance. In chapter 7 God brought the plague of blood. In chapter 8 He brought frogs and flies. In chapter 9 He brought a plague on the livestock, boils, and hail. In chapter 10 He brought locusts and darkness. Finally in chapter 11 God brought death to the firstborn which resulted in Pharaoh relenting and letting the Israelites leave Egypt.
 - ⇒ God turned up the intensity with each new plague until he had Pharaoh's attention.
 - ⇒ Read Exodus 10:21-23
 - ⇒ Would darkness that can be felt get your attention?!
- ⇒ It took a lot to get Pharaoh to acknowledge God was in charge- but today we are not too different. We resist letting God be in charge of our lives. We might let him be in charge in one area while we do our best to keep him out of other areas of our life. Why do we do that?





⇒ How are you doing in allowing God to be in charge of the following areas of your life:

- School/Work
- Personal Relationships
- Finances
- Your Words
- Your Thoughts
- Your Actions
- Free Time
- Being a Light for Christ to those around you

⊙ Does God have to bring plagues to get your attention?! What needs to happen in your life so that you can allow God to be in charge of all of your life?

PRAYER:

- ⊙ **Allow time for members of your group to come before God asking his mercy and help to let Him be in charge!**
- ⊙ 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.