

Message Discussion Guide

Date: July 6th - 7th

This guide is split in two - please use the appropriate discussion questions for your J-Group (keep in mind, people may have gathered at different times and heard different speakers)

Title: Voices Weekend - Group 1

Connect with Each Other:

Icebreakers

- What's the most unexpected or surprising gift you've ever received, and how did it impact you?
- What is your favorite summer activity and why?

Pray Together

Dear heavenly father, we thank you for the opportunity to come together today and grow with one another. We thank you for every single person who is here and those who couldn't make it. We ask that we sit in your presence today as we go into discussion and that you are at the root of it all. We love you, we honor you, in Jesus name, Amen.

Connect with God: Theo's Message

Key Bible Verses

- **Acts 27:18-26 (NIV)**

"18 We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they

began to throw the cargo overboard. 19 On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. 20 When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved. 21 After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: 'Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. 22 But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. 23 Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me 24 and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' 25 So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. 26 Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.'

Message Summary

Theo shared a powerful message about trusting in God's plan, even when the journey doesn't go as expected. In Acts 27 and 28, through the story of Paul God leads us to our destination through unexpected and often challenging paths. Paul's journey to Rome, filled with storms, shipwrecks, and snake bites, ultimately led to miraculous events and healing. The key takeaway is to trust that "It Will Happen" and to recognize that everything, even the hardships, is part of God's plan.

Sticky statement

It WILL happen. It HAD to happen. Be GLAD it happened.

Discussion Questions

1. Theo mentioned that sometimes God gets us where we want to be, just not in the way we expected. Can you share an experience where this was true for you?

2. After surviving a shipwreck, Paul was bitten by a snake but shook it off and continued his mission. What are some things in your life that you need to "shake off" to move forward?

Connect with God: Bethy's Message

Key Bible Verses

- **Exodus 3:10-14 (NIV)**

"10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." 11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" 12 And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain." 13 Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" 14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

- **Exodus 33:13-14 (NIV)**

"13 If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people." 14 The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

- **John 8:12 (NIV)**

"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"

Message Summary

Bethzy shared a compelling message about recognizing God's presence and calling in our lives through the story of Moses. From Moses' encounter with the burning bush to his mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, we learned that God equips us with His presence and promises. Despite Moses' doubts and fears, God reassured him with the powerful name "I AM," signifying His eternal and all-sufficient nature. The message encourages us to trust in God's presence ("See the light") and to act on His calling ("Be the light") in our lives.

Sticky statement

See the Light. Be the Light.

Discussion Questions

3. Bethzy mentioned how Moses doubted his own abilities when God called him. Have you ever felt unqualified or doubted yourself when facing a challenge? How did you overcome it?
4. Have you experienced moments when you felt distant from God? How did you reconnect with Him?

Connect with God: Drew's Message

Key Bible Verses

- **Romans 12:3 (TPT)**

"I would ask each of you to be emptied of self-promotion and not create a false image of your importance. Instead, honestly assess your worth by using your God-given faith as the standard of measurement, and then you will see your true value with appropriate self-esteem."

- **John 1:20-23 (NIV)**

"20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, 'I am not the Messiah.'
21 They asked him, 'Then who are you? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.'

'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' 22 Finally they said, 'Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' 23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, 'I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Make straight the way for the Lord.'""

- **Romans 8:37-39 (NIV)**

"37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Message Summary

Drew shared a message about overcoming insecurity and embracing true greatness for the glory of God. He emphasized that our worth and greatness come from our faith in God, not from our accomplishments. Through the example of John the Baptist, who consistently pointed to Jesus despite his own significant role, Drew highlighted the importance of being bold and great while giving all glory to God. He also shared personal struggles with insecurity, encouraging us to rely on God's love and promises.

Sticky statement

Be Bold, Be Great, Let it all Point to the One who is Greater.

Discussion Questions

1. John the Baptist consistently pointed to Jesus. How can we follow his example in our daily lives?
2. What are some practical ways to be bold and great for God's glory?
3. Drew shared that greatness is an opportunity to attract others to talk about Jesus. Can you share a time when your actions or accomplishments led to a

conversation about your faith?

Title: Voices Weekend - Group 2

Connect with Each Other:

Icebreakers

- What's the most unexpected or surprising gift you've ever received, and how did it impact you?
- What is your favorite summer activity and why?

Pray Together

Dear heavenly father, we thank you for the opportunity to come together today and grow with one another. We thank you for every single person who is here and those who couldn't make it. We ask that we sit in your presence today as we go into discussion and that you are at the root of it all. We love you, we honor you, in Jesus name, Amen.

Connect with God: Yare's Message

Key Bible Verses

- **Genesis 19:12-13**
"12 Meanwhile, the angels questioned Lot. 'Do you have any other relatives here in the city?' they asked. 'Get them out of this place—your sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone else. 13 For we are about to destroy this city

completely. The outcry against this place is so great it has reached the Lord, and he has sent us to destroy it."

- **Genesis 19:15**

"'Hurry,' they said to Lot. 'Take your wife and your two daughters who are here. Get out right now, or you will be swept away in the destruction of the city!'"

- **Genesis 19:26**

"But Lot's wife looked back as she was following behind him, and she turned into a pillar of salt."

Message Summary

Yare shared her journey of personal transformation and the struggle to leave her past behind. Using the story of Lot's wife from the Bible, Yare illustrated the dangers of looking back and the importance of trusting God to lead us forward. She encouraged us to replace old habits and identities with new, positive ones rooted in faith and community.

Sticky statement

You are not stuck in your past; today you can choose a new name for yourself.

Discussion Questions

5. Have you ever felt stuck in a job, relationship, or habit? How did you recognize it, and what steps did you take to move forward?
6. How can you replace old, negative habits with new, positive ones that align with God's purpose for you?

Connect with God: Connor's Message

Key Bible Verses

- **Luke 23:20-25**

20 For the third time he demanded, "Why? What crime has he committed? I have found no reason to sentence him to death. So I will have him flogged, and then I will release him." 21 But the mob shouted louder and louder, demanding that Jesus be crucified, and their voices prevailed. 22 So Pilate sentenced Jesus to die as they demanded. 23 As they had requested, he released Barabbas, the man in prison for insurrection and murder. But he turned Jesus over to them to do as they wished.

- **Romans 8:1**

1 So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

- **1 John 3:15**

15 Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them.

Message Summary

Connor shared a powerful message about Barabbas, a known troublemaker and murderer who was set free while Jesus took his place on the cross. This story highlights the profound gift of salvation Jesus offers us all, taking our place and freeing us from condemnation. Connor emphasizes the importance of accepting and wielding this gift in our daily lives, rather than wasting it. He encouraged us to serve God's kingdom and use our skills to make a positive impact on others

Sticky statement

Use it, you can't lose it.

Discussion Questions

7. How do you relate to the story of Barabbas? Have you ever felt unworthy of

a second chance or forgiveness?

8. Barabbas was given a second chance, but we don't know what he did with it. How can we ensure that we don't waste the opportunities and gifts God has given us?

Connect with God: Haley's Message

Key Bible Verses

- **Ecclesiastes 3:1-2a**

"For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. 2 A time to be born and a time to die."

- **Ecclesiastes 3:9-10**

"9 What do people really get for all their hard work? 10 I have seen the burden God has placed on us all."

- **Ecclesiastes 3:11**

"11 Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart."

Message Summary

Haley shared her journey from enjoying peaceful summer days by the pool to the busy and often monotonous routine of caring for one-year-old twins. She related this to the broader experience of finding purpose in life, even in repetitive and mundane tasks. Haley drew from Solomon's wisdom in Ecclesiastes, emphasizing that God controls the seasons of our lives and has placed eternity in our hearts. She encouraged us to see our daily routines as part of a larger purpose and to seek fulfillment and happiness in God alone.

Sticky statement

You've been placed with a purpose.

Discussion Questions

9. How do you currently feel about the routine and patterns in your life? Do you see them as monotonous or meaningful? Why?
10. Haley talked about getting involved and serving as a way to find purpose. How can you start "getting your feet wet" in serving others or getting involved in your community or church?
11. Have you ever experienced a season in life where you found unexpected meaning or purpose? Share your experience with the group.