

SMALL GROUP LEADER'S GUIDE FOR "9 RULES" GROUP #3

Look UP, Look IN... then Look OUT

This document has three sections -

A GENERIC PLANNING GUIDE

A SERMON SUMMARY AND A COMPLETED SERMON NOTES PAGE FROM THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

A SET OF POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

PLANNING GUIDE

Since this sermon series is our church's own creation, there is no small group leader's guide per se. But the following strategy will help you create a meaningful study for your group:

1. Listen to the sermon at church or on-line.
As you do, think about possible questions for your group
2. Review the completed Bulletin Back Page below. This will be information your group is already familiar with if they went to church, and so they may feel the most competent in discussing this content. Which of the points or questions there would you want to include in your small group discussion ?
3. Review the additional Small Group questions below.
Do any of them resonate with you ? Pick some that would work well with your group.
4. If you want additional bible verses to consider, see the table on the website for this session.
5. From the four resources above narrow down to the best questions and points you want to cover. Remember a few good questions that engage the group are much better than working through a ton of material

Here are four goals to help you choose your questions:

1. Ask a question that will help people get to know each other better – a safe/fun question that allows people to share a little bit about their life to the degree that they are comfortable
2. Ask a question that gets people to wrestle with a particular scripture, and when possible, the Lordship of Jesus
3. Ask a question that gets people to take an honest look at themselves
4. Ask a question helps people think about how they might apply some lesson to their life

Here is a possible structure for the order of your group:

0. Snacks and catch up /introductions before you gather all together for the formal discussion

1. Start off with a safe / fun question

This could be a random crowd breaker, or a question about life here and now. The goal is to establish a warm, safe, enjoyable environment where people are getting to know each other. Usually the first Small Group question on the last page below will be of this sort.

2. Ask question that gets people to interact with the sermon or scripture content and its meaning.

3. Ask a question that gets people to share a little deeper about their own lives or how the content might be applied to their own lives

4. Ask a question that gets people to think about a next step they might take – it could be an action, or it could be embracing a biblical truth

5. Close in prayer. Ideally this would involve both sharing of needs/concerns, but also prayers for actually living out the biblical truths that were discussed. If praying out loud is new to your group, you could start the first sessions with just the leader praying, then as weeks go by, ask others to pray, and so model to shyer folks how it is done.

SERMON SUMMARY:

Arrogant pride is something we will have to fight for the rest of our lives. It manifests itself in bragging, but also in judgementalism and being opinionated. We often act like it is our job to stand in judgement of the world.

There is a huge difference between seeing someone who disagrees with us as wrong rather than evil.

We spend too much time claiming we know other people's motives and not enough time examining our own motives.

Our foolish arrogance is demonstrated by our belief that we are wise enough to solve the problems of the world while we refuse to solve basic problems in our own life. Before I feel qualified to clean up the world perhaps I should first clean up my bedroom! "Set your own house in order before you criticize the world "

The way Christians can set their house in order is to spend more time paying attention to God and to our own propensity for sin and ignorance. A discipline that can curb my arrogance and judgementalism is to follow these steps before making pronouncements about others:

Look UP – practice the presence of God – sit in humble prayer and worship, for God says "Be still and know that I am God."

Look IN – practice the hard discipline of questioning our own motives and lack of knowledge. Taking time to examine our own attitudes and the way we jump to conclusions or imagine the worst possible motives of others.

Then I am ready to

Look OUT – we do have to evaluate people and make judgements and take stands in Society. But we should be very slow making pronouncements about others or complex social issues.

“

#3, Look up, Look in - Set your own house in perfect order before you make pronouncements upon the world

“Life is short, and you don't have time to figure everything out on your own. The wisdom of the past was hard-earned, and your dead ancestors may have something useful to tell you.” – Jordan Peterson

Matthew - Chapter 7:3-5

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

When someone strongly disagrees with me, I am tempted to view them as either EVIL or STUPID. That is despising, that is sin. I should spend more time examining my own MOTIVES and less time presuming to know other people's motives.

Proverbs - Chapter 35-7

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

It takes no talent to hold an OPINION. There is no safe port from PRIDE. If I think I already know everything, I am sealed off from ever actually KNOWING.

“Don't blame capitalism, the radical left, or the iniquity of your enemies. Don't reorganize the state until you have ordered your own experience. Have some humility. If you cannot bring peace to your household, how dare you try to rule a city?... Start small. Have you said what you need to say to your friends and family members? Have you taken full advantage of the opportunities offered you? Do you have habits that are destroying your health and well being? *Start to stop doing what you know to be wrong.* Don't waste time questioning how you know that what you're doing is wrong. You can know something is wrong or right without knowing why... Set your own house in order before you criticize the world.” – Jordan Peterson in *12 Rules for Life*

Do I spend more time arguing in my head or being still before the Lord ?

**When I consider the actual interactions I have with other people,
am I more the student or the pronouncer ?**

ADDITIONAL POSSIBLE SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. The last two weeks we talked about trying to be the Lobster and trying not to be the Hermit Crab. Have you thought any more about these ideas, or noticed any changes in yourself ?
2. In the sermon, the pastor gave the example of feeling judged about the way he was cutting an Avocado. Even in really trivial issues, we often hold strong opinions that there is a right way and a wrong way to do something. Other people may find us silly or ridiculous. What is one small thing you know you are overly opinionated about?
3. Share a story about a time you encountered someone who was really opinionated, judgmental, or arrogant and it drove you crazy.
4. Of those three stances (Opinionated, Judgmental, Arrogant), which one annoys you most and why ?
5. Have you ever caught yourself being one of those three things ? If so, can you share that story with us ?
6. Read Matthew :1-5

NIV Matthew 7:1 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged.

2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the **plank** in your own eye?

4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a **plank** in your own eye?

5 You hypocrite, first take the **plank** out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

For most of us, it is easier to see other peoples Judgementalism and to see our own. Why is that ?

7. We often spend more time analyzing other people's motives than we spend on analyzing our own motives. What factors might contribute to this tendency ?
8. In the current political environment, have you ever quickly decided someone was evil or stupid based on nothing more than a brief sound-bite or what someone else said about them? If so, what would be an antidote to this tendency (which unfair to a fellow image bearer of God) ?
9. What kind of payback do we get by remaining in a constant state of outrage towards those who disagree with us ? While some of our outrage might be justified, who stands to gain by keeping us in a constant state of outrage ?

10. In the sermon, Langdon argued that there is a crucial difference between seeing someone as evil and seeing them as wrong. What is that difference emotionally, logically, and politically?

11. Read Isaiah 6:1-6.

IV Isaiah 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple.

2 Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.

3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar.

7 With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

How could an encounter like the one Isaiah had change his attitude about the things we have been talking about ?

12. Can you explain what the phrase "Look Up then Look In, before Looking Out" meant ?

13. Can you find this three step sequence in the Isaiah story ?

14. What steps, reminders, or disciplines could you use to retrain your tendency towards judgementalism, arrogance, and being overly opinionated?

15. Read Philippians 2:5-11

5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

How could we turn this into a prayer to Jesus ? Let's do that !