

GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

“A Return the World of the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 3:13-16; 1:5)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **Worship and Prayer** is this Wednesday, September 30 at 7:30pm. All groups are still encouraged to meet this week because the fall semester was postponed.
2. **BergenKIDS:** All ages will be permitted into the worship gathering this Sunday, October 1st. Pre-K through 3rd Bergen kids programming will only be available during the 9AM service.
3. **Member Gathering:** our bi-annual member gathering will be held Sunday, October 25th from 4:00pm-5:30pm.

FOCUS: the most important thing this month is for you and your group to spend sufficient time getting to know each other and get reacquainted with your friendships.

DISCUSSION:

1. Icebreaker: see the Leader Resource page (<https://www.churchatbergen.org/group-leader-resources>) and pick an icebreaker from the link called: “75 Icebreaker Questions for Small Groups.”
2. Was there anything that really stood out to you in this past week’s sermon? What was it? Why did that particular aspect impress itself upon you?
3. The main point of the sermon was about how to know if you receive the gospel and the Bible as the word of men or the word of God. The first indication was that it affects you powerfully. Pastor Peter used the “ruby illustration” to explain the power of the word. How did that illustration help, clarify, or challenge you in your personal relationship with the Bible?
4. The second way to know if you receive the Bible as the word of God and not the word of men is if the Holy Spirit is working in you. Read John 16:13-14 and identify the two things the Spirit does. How do you think these two operations of the Spirit relate to us receiving the Bible as God’s word, and not man’s word?
5. The final way to know if you receive the Bible as the word of God and not the word of men is if it results in *full conviction*. Pastor Peter told the story of how he used to stop reading Proverbs because it convicted him so much. A lot of times we can ignore certain parts of the Bible because they expose and convict us of our sins. In what way have you personally found yourself drifting from parts of Scripture? How can we grow in our belief that conviction of sin is not God’s opposition to us, but his mercy toward us?
6. It was said in the sermon, “*A church that hides from sin is a dying church.*” Why do you think this is? How is this not bad news, but actually good news for us?
7. Paul the apostle says at the end of verse 13, “the word of God... which is at work in you.” What might it look like for us as a group for the word of God to be at work in each of us?

Prayer: pray for the 3 signs of receiving the Bible as the word of God (power, Holy Spirit, and full conviction) to be alive in your group and also in the church.