

GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

“Ignorance is Not Bliss” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **Membership Class** will be Sunday, November 15 from 1:00-3:30. Register online.
2. **Jolly Jubilee** for families to celebrate and participate in Christmas festivities at the church will be December 4th from 6pm-8pm.
3. **Operation Christmas Child** boxes are due back at the church by November 22nd.

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. It was said in the sermon that the Bible gives us permission to grieve. When you have gone through a season of grief, did you feel free to go through that process, or did you feel pressure to “get over it”? Explain.
4. Paul tells us to grieve, not as others do, but with hope. What do you think it looks like to grieve “with hope” vs. “without hope”?
5. Do you think that Christians grieve more or less than unbelievers without hope? Explain.
6. Paul begins the passage expressing his concern that we not be “uninformed.” What do you think are the implications of this for Christian doctrine/teaching and living the Christian life practically?
7. Read Hebrews 6:17-20. In what way does this add to or enhance on this week’s teaching on grieving with hope?
8. Reading over verses 14-17 again, how does this passage square with your understanding of the second coming of Christ?
9. According to verse 18, the ultimate purpose of this teaching on the second coming of Christ is that we might encourage one another. What do you find most encouraging about this passage for you personally?

PRAYER: Please take some time to pray specifically for us as a church that we would live in light of Christ’s second coming. Pray also for our church that we would maintain the unity of the Spirit through this tense political season.