

Study Guide for Sunday Message (for individuals and Small Groups)

Our Mission

To turn seekers into disciplers in community.
We accomplish this mission when we:

- Invite people to a loving community,
- Offer a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ,
- Develop authentic examples of Christian character and conduct, and
- Mobilize teams for ministry in the church and mission in the world.



On the Horizon

First Tuesday—November 3, 6-7:30 The first Tuesday of each month is a time designed for anyone who wants to go deeper. We will share a meal together and have a time for worship, prayer, and teaching. Please RSVP on the website at www.newhorizonchurch.org/get-equipped. Childcare available by 24-hour advance request only.

Small Group Workshop—November 8, 12:30-4pm This workshop is for anyone interested in learning more about small groups, for current small group leaders, and those who might be interested in leading a small group. Register on the website at newhorizonchurch.org or call the Church Office at 359-8909.

Austin's Place, a Winter Shelter for Women is having a Volunteer Training **Thursday, November 12** at 6:30 pm at First UMC in downtown Champaign. This is the only shelter for single women in Champaign County. The shelter operates January 1 - April 15 at First UMC. For more information contact Cathy Koerber through First UMC at 356-9078.

Ministry Team Training—November 15, 12:30-5pm At New Horizon, we believe the most important statistic in the Church is not how many people are sitting in chairs, but how many people are serving in ministry. This training is designed as the New Horizon membership class and will clearly explain New Horizon's mission, vision, and values. Childcare is available with 1 week advance registration. For more information **contact Roger Perry** at pastor@newhorizonchurch.org or 359-8909.

Thanksgiving Dinner—November 22, 5pm Each year we have the honor of hosting our friends from Restoration Urban Ministry, TIMES Center and Jesus is the Way, for our annual Thanksgiving dinner. Dinner will start at 5 pm followed by an awesome time of worship. If you would like to help in any way as we share this special time together, please sign-up in the Connection Café or the website at newhorizonchurch.org. If you prepare a side dish, you may pick-up a disposable container from the sign-up table in the Connection Café. For more information contact Jeanette Keller at ejkeller1@gmail.com

Heart Bible Readings for the Week

Sunday: I Peter 4:12-13
Monday: II Corinthians 4:14-15
Tuesday: II Corinthians 4:16-18
Wednesday: 1 Thessalonians 3:2-4
Thursday: 2 Thessalonians 1:3-5
Friday: Psalm 28:6-10
Saturday: James 1:2-3

Guide for the HEART Bible Study

H - Hear the scripture: Read the scripture aloud so that you can hear it. Second, write every word of the scripture in your journal. If the text is long, look for words and verses that really are speaking to you and write them down. Both the reading aloud and the writing it will help mark, or place the scripture in your heart and mind.

E - Encounter: Let your mind circle around the text. Ask God, "Lord, what is it You want me to learn from this scripture?" Begin to listen to God. Let Him guide you. Write down what He gives you from the scripture.

A - Apply: Ask yourself, "How does this scripture apply to my life?" This is an opportunity for you to inwardly digest the scripture.

Look for: Promises to claim; Attitudes to change; Challenges to accept; Sins to confess; Commands to obey; Actions to take; Examples to follow; Skills to learn

R - Response: Determine to respond to what God has shown you by asking yourself, "What in my life do I need to give over to God?" Everyday, through this Bible study, you will have an opportunity to discover God and subsequently respond to Him in life-changing ways.

T - Transforming your Life: As you end your Bible study time, pray "Lord, I have received and thought about Your word to me; now, help me to follow You."

Discussion

Trials

Ice Breaker possibilities that can lead into the study:

- Describe a tense scene for a movie that you have watched. What were the trials that were being faced?
- Have you ever served on jury duty? If so, did you like serving that way? If not, would you want to serve on a jury some day? Why or why not?

Scripture: I Peter 4:12-13 (Message)

(Have a person from the group read these verses.) Use the HEART Bible Study to read, hear, mark and inwardly digest this passage.

Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. Instead, this is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner.

Introduction:

Trials of life are tough. Nobody wants to “go to trial.” But even without the legal system there are many trials that life can throw at a person. Trials can come in the form of a job, or losing a job. Trials happen within the family and can happen with friends. Trials happen in the form of some bad news about our health. Economic downturns can cause trials as well as a natural disaster or fire. I Peter 4:12-13 speaks of trials being a “spiritual refining process.” From it we learn what God calls us to do, and not do, in tough times.

Discussion Questions:

1. When times are tough, do you find yourself blaming God, or wondering why He doesn't do some thing?
2. How do you feel about the directive to, “*be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced*” when you are experiencing trials in your life?
3. How do our own trials help us to identify with what Jesus experienced?
4. What is “*glory just around the corner*” referred to in verse 13?

Reflect:

5. Think of the trials that you are living through right now. What from this passage will help you deal with your trials in a positive way?

Apply:

6. Tough Personal Trials can lead to deepening your faith and your dependence on God. What is your “take home” learning from this text? In times of trial, what are you going to do differently?

Roger Perry

Lead Pastor

pastor@newhorizonchurch.org