



Week 7

WITH OUR HEARTS WE DECIDE

LEADER NOTES

A word from Pastor Brian:

"The assumption and hope will be that the majority of people at Woodlands will be praying about their commitments to the Kingdom Expansion. I will look at the responses that should always mark us as people of God. I want to generalize this message to be a template to look at three dispositions of the heart that need to be present for us to take any step of faith forward, not just in regards to what we are doing in this Kingdom Expansion."

A note to leaders- *These sermon based discussion guides have been a way to engage your group in meaningful discussion during the current sermon series, "For the Sake of the NAME". This template is something that you can continue to utilize and adapt with your own material, whether you use future sermon based discussion questions or a different study.*

OPEN IN PRAYER (5 MIN.)

Welcome everyone and kick off the meeting in prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to lead and guide your discussion. Whether you are leading an existing group, a new group, or a discussion group, express gratitude for the commitment everyone has made to attending and participating during this sermon series.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION (10 MIN.)

Choose one of the questions below.

- What is one of your biggest fears about the future?
- Share about a time when you followed through on something that was really hard.

LAUNCHING - OPTIONAL (5 MIN.)

Spend some time talking about how your group has engaged in the relational, transformational and missional components of the "Going Deeper" sections, including using the Woodlands prayer app. How have they been helping you grow in your walk with God and with one another? Is there a particular habit you've grown in over the past 8 weeks that you would like to see continue? How will you do so?

DISCUSSION (45 MIN.)

1. Share a story of a time you felt lead to take a step of faith of some kind. (Taking a new job, sharing your faith with someone, joining a new ministry team, moving, etc.)
2. What did you learn? If it was a difficult one to decide, what helped you move forward?
3. Describe the process that you use to take a step of faith/make a major decision. Your process may help others as you share together.
4. The message emphasized that there are three dispositions of the heart that enable us to take steps of faith: Trust, Obedience, Treasuring. Can you think of others?

Obedience: Read the story of Saul's disobedience in 1 Samuel 15:1-22.

5. What are some things that strike you in this story?
6. Why do you think full obedience and not just partial obedience is so important to God?
7. What are some areas that are hard for you to bring fully under the Lordship of Christ, and live with a posture of obedience?

Trust: Read these passages: Psalm 56: 3-4, 11; Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 37:3-5; 32:8-10; Isaiah 30:15-17; and 26:3-4

8. What is emphasized about trust in these passages?
9. In general, what makes it hard for you to trust God? What is the primary area of your life or issue that you find hard to fully trust God with and leave it in His hands?
10. If someone said to you "I find it hard to trust God, what should I do?" How would you counsel them?

Treasure: Read these passages: Psalm 73:25-28 and Psalm 84:10-12.

11. What feeds and nurtures treasuring and valuing God above all else in you?
12. What is one thing you've picked up from this sermon, these scriptures, and this discussion that makes it a little easier to take steps of faith?

PRAYER (5-10 MIN.)

Break the group up into teams of 3 or 4. Have each team pray over the Intercede section of the prayer app for this week's *30 Days of Prayer and Fasting*.

GOING DEEPER (ON YOUR OWN)

The following ideas are suggestions for people who would like to go deeper during their personal time with the Lord over the coming week.

Relational: Make plans to celebrate “Thanksgiving” together as a group. Here are some ideas:

- Attend the Thanksgiving Eve service on Tuesday, November 20th. Start the evening by sharing a quick meal together. Pizza is perfect!
- Schedule a “Friendsgiving” for your group, and invite some people to join you who are not in your group. This is a great way to share your faith in a non-threatening way.
- Write a thank you note to someone in your group, expressing your appreciation for how they have helped you grow in your faith.

Transformational: Here are some suggestions for your quiet time this week:

- Pray using the Woodlands app and follow along with the *30 Days of Prayer*. Join us in devoted, diligent and dependent fasting and prayer.
- Reading the Word
 - Woodlands in the Word
 - Old Testament: Proverbs 13-27
 - New Testament: James 4-5, 1 Peter 1-3
 - Revisit the passages from this week’s study and dig deeper on your own.
 - Pick a new book of the Bible and walk through it during your times with God.
 - Scripture memory verse: Proverbs 3:5-6 “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.”

Missional: Over the next week, take a walk in three different areas in our community and pray for the Lord to open doors for people who do not yet know Him. Think about areas where the Lord has placed you to influence others for the Sake of the NAME, such as your neighborhood, workplace, school, downtown, UWSP, and right here at Woodlands Church. Ask God to give you a heart that trusts and obeys His promptings.

FOLLOW UP

Thank you so much for your leadership of your group during this fall’s Kingdom Expansion. We hope and pray that this curriculum has been a helpful tool to use in your groups, creating rich opportunities to grow relationally, transformationally and missionally. You may never know the impact you have had in helping members of your group grow as Christ-centered people. As we look towards the future, please prayerfully consider the next steps for your group. Will your group continue? What will you study? How can you help members continue to apply some of the things we’ve encountered on a relational, transformational, and missional basis? You may wish to connect with your coach or John Jordens to discuss the options.