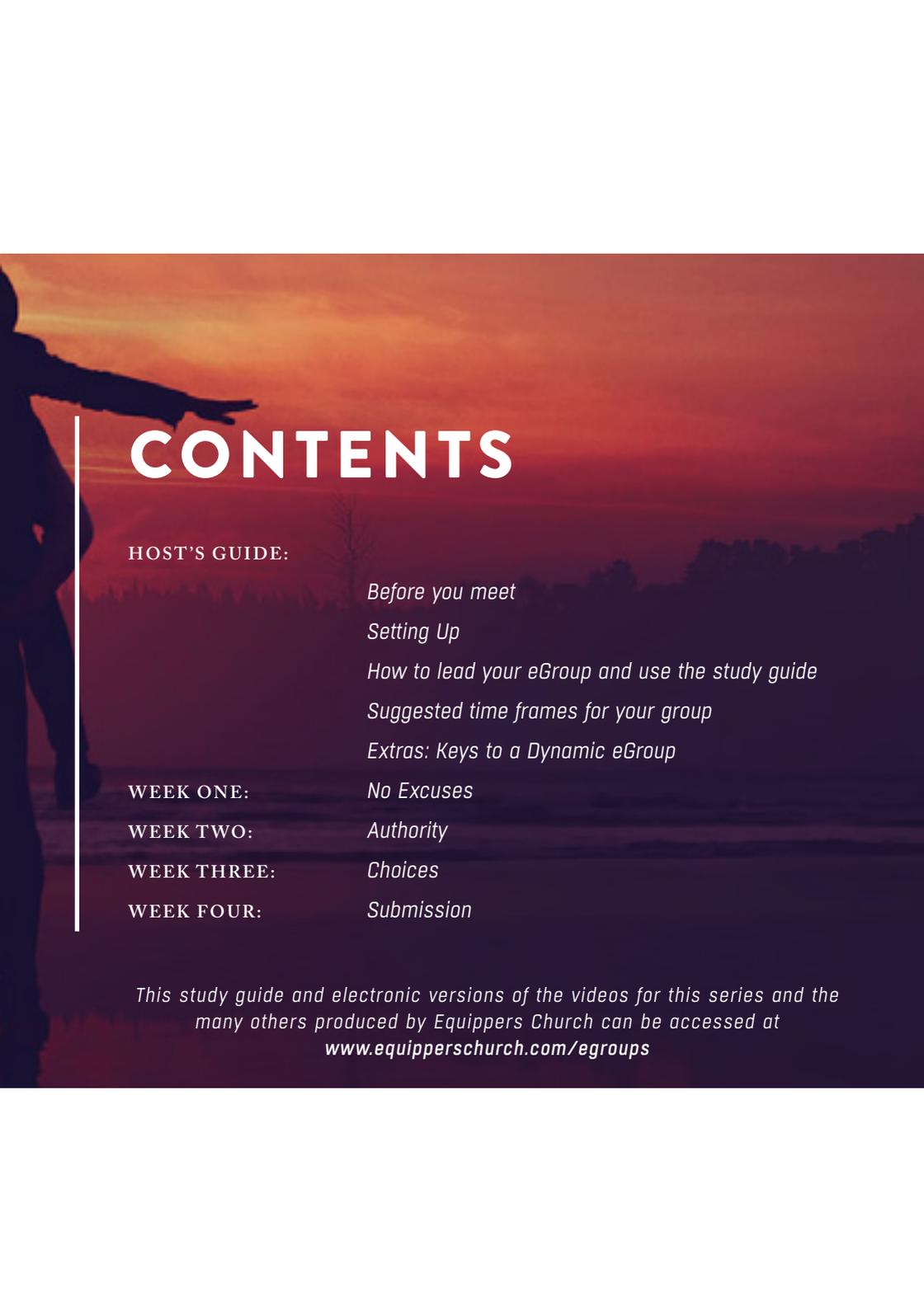


A silhouette of a person carrying a child on their shoulders, standing on a beach at sunset. The person's arms are outstretched, and the child's arms are also outstretched. The sky is a vibrant orange and red, and the water reflects the scene. The text "IM A BIG KID NOW" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

IM A BIG KID NOW

EQUIPPERS 





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This study guide and electronic versions of the videos for this series and the many others produced by Equippers Church can be accessed at www.equipperschurch.com/egroups

HOST'S GUIDE

This study guide is here to help you lead a fun and transformative eGroup study over the next few weeks that will see each person progress and grow.

Use this guide along with the videos for a life-changing, interactive experience.

BEFORE YOU MEET:

- Ask God to prepare the hearts and minds of the people in your eGroup. Ask Him to show each of you how to apply what you learn to your own heart to see growth and to move forward.
- Preview the DVD and read through the study guide for that week. Think about what you might answer for each question. Make notes in your study guide if you want to.

SETTING UP:

- Take time before everyone arrives to prepare some snacks to share with everyone, set up the room you will use, check that there are enough seats, and try to create a relaxed and comfortable environment to meet in. You might want to play music quietly to create a relaxed atmosphere when everyone arrives, or move the furniture in your living room to make the space inviting.
- Have a Bible handy for verses that you might want to look up during discussion.

HOW TO HOST YOUR GATHERING AND USE YOUR STUDY GUIDE:

ENGAGE: Welcome each person as they arrive. Spend time chatting, getting to know one another, or just sharing about the week. Your relationships as a group are as important as the time you spend watching the video or in discussion. A relaxed and friendly environment is an easy place to learn and hear from God.

RECAP: After the first session you may wish to spend a bit of time each week recapping how your last seven days has been, inviting members to share any opportunities they had throughout the week to apply what they learned.



KEY THOUGHT: This is the main takeaway for the week. Use it as a guide to frame your discussion.

WATCH: After you have spent some time engaging with each other watch the DVD for the week.

DISCUSS: Read out each question in the study guide, allowing time for everyone to share their thoughts or experiences if they desire.

When a question arises, ask the group for their input, and resist the urge to answer it yourself straight away. Your primary role is to create an environment where people feel comfortable to be themselves and participate, not to provide all the answers to all of their questions. Don't be afraid of silence as participants think of their response to the questions.

Remember, the goal is not necessarily to 'get through' all of the questions. The main priority is for each person to learn and engage in dynamic discussion.

PRAY: Ask the group to pray for each other from week to week, especially about key issues that arise during your discussion time. This is how you begin to build authentic relationship, and encourage spiritual growth within the group.



SUGGESTED TIME FRAMES FOR YOUR GATHERING:

ENGAGE: 15 minutes

RECAP: 10 minutes

WATCH: 10 minutes

DISCUSS: 30 minutes

PRAY: 5-10 minutes

(Please note that these are just suggested times, you may wish to take longer in certain areas. However, we do recommend keeping your gathering to a maximum of one and a half hours in consideration of others' time)

KEYS TO A DYNAMIC EGROUP

RELATIONSHIPS: Meaningful, encouraging relationships are the foundation of a dynamic eGroup. Discussion and prayer are important elements of a gathering, but the depth of each part is often dependent upon the depth of the relationships between members.

AVAILABILITY: Building a sense of community within your group requires members to prioritise their relationships with one another. This means being available to listen, care for one another, and meet each others' needs.



MUTUAL RESPECT: Mutual respect is shown when members value others' opinions (even when they disagree) and are careful to never belittle or embarrass others in the group (including their spouses, who may or may not be present).

OPENNESS: A healthy group environment encourages sincerity and transparency. Members treat each other with grace in areas of weakness, allowing each other room to grow.

CONFIDENTIALITY: To develop authenticity and a sense of safety within the group, each member must be able to trust that things discussed within the group will not be shared outside the group.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY: Group members will share the responsibility of gatherings by using their God-given abilities to serve at each meeting. Some may greet, some may prepare food, some may pray, etc. Ideally, each person should be available to care for one another as needed.

SENSITIVITY: Dynamic eGroups are born when the leader consistently seeks and is responsive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, following His leading throughout the meeting as opposed to sticking to the 'agenda'. This is especially important during the discussion and prayer time.

FUN! Dynamic gatherings take the time to have fun! Create an atmosphere for fun, and be willing to laugh at yourself every now and then!

NO EXCUSES

ENGAGE: Spend time connecting with each other.

KEY THOUGHT: Don't let other peoples failings be an excuse for your failing.

WATCH: Watch 'Session One' of the video.

KEY VERSE: Matthew 23:8

"But you are not to be called 'Rabbi', for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers."

OPEN

Start by discussing anything from the video that particularly stood out to your group.

Question 1

Maturing as a Christian is a lot like a child growing up. When and how do children become independent from their parents and start making decisions for themselves?

Question 2

If we want to grow we need to be intentional about moving forward. What are some of the personal behaviours that you have taken responsibility for since following Jesus?

STUDY

Read Mathew 23:2-10

"The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.



‘Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called ‘Rabbi’ by others. ‘But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi,’ for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth ‘father,’ for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Messiah”

Question 3

What is Jesus saying about how we should view our leaders and teachers? Considering that leaders and teachers still require respect and honour.

Question 4

Have you ever followed the bad (or marginal) behaviour of a leader, or used their behaviour as an excuse?

COMMIT

Question 5

What area in your life are you neglecting because you are deferring responsibility to others (leaders, teachers, friends etc.)?

PRAY

Ask if anyone would like specific prayer for an area of their life that they need to take responsibility for.

Pray for the courage to take ownership of behaviours.

PRACTICAL

Make a list of two or three behaviours or patterns that you will take responsibility for.

e.g. regular bible reading, prayer, serving.

AUTHORITY

CONNECT: Spend time connecting with each other.

KEY THOUGHT: Take authority of your own life – break free from other people’s opinions.

WATCH: Watch ‘Session Two’ of the video.

KEY VERSE

John 12:42 “because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith”

OPEN

Start by discussing anything from the video that particularly stood out to your group.

Question 1

How do you respond to other people’s opinions of you?

Exercise (depending on the confidence within your group) – take turns to compliment the person on your right. Consider each other’s response.

Question 2

Can you remember any criticisms of you from your past or present? How have you processed it? Does it still impact you?

STUDY

Read John 12:42-43

“Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in Him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved human praise more than praise from God.”

Question 3

Who would be a Pharisee in your world?
Cool kids, celebrity, work colleagues, family....

Question 4

From Mark 12:14 how does Jesus continue to say the truth despite who he's talking to?
i.e. Jesus spoke the truth and let others decide what to do with it.

COMMIT

Question 5

Where do you need to take authority over your life, and do what you think is right, rather than deferring to others?

The following scenarios might help:

- When have you thought you are bad if others disapprove or disagree?
- When have you considered other people's opinions are better than yours?
- What have you failed at and thought it was because you're bad?
- Do you think your plans will succeed or fail?
- How often do you agree with others just to keep the peace?

PRAY

Pray for each other's specific areas that they need to take authority in.

CHOICES

CONNECT: Spend time connecting with each other.

KEY THOUGHT: Freedom comes with responsibility.

WATCH: Watch 'Session Three' of the video.

KEY VERSE: Proverbs 6:6-8

"Take a lesson from the ants, you lazybones. Learn from their ways and become wise! Though they have no prince or governor or ruler to make them work, they labour all summer, gathering food for winter."

OPEN

Start by discussing anything from the video that particularly stood out to your group.

Question 1

Discuss the concept of learning 'how to think'.

What activities in life are not prescriptive (don't have a set of rules) and you have to think for yourself? (In these situations the decisions might have two or three reasonable outcomes).

Question 2

When do you ask for opinions or advice?

STUDY

Read Proverbs 6:6-11

"Take a lesson from the ants, you lazybones. Learn from their ways and become wise! Though they have no prince or governor or ruler to make them work, they labour all summer, gathering food for winter.

But you lazy bones, how long will you sleep? When will you wake up?



A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest
Then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an
armed robber.”

Question 3

Discuss how verse 10-11 translates into real life. Is this a literal sleep or does it represent something else? How much sleep/slumber/folding of the hands does it take for poverty to pounce?

Question 4

What areas of your life do you work hard at without anyone supervising/watching you?

What areas of your life do you need a ruler/boss to make you work hard?

COMMIT

Question 5

Are there areas of your life where you blame others for things that you need to take responsibility for?

Questions 6

What areas of life do you need to discipline, and who will you make yourself accountable to?

PRAY

Pray for the courage to make yourself accountable.

PRACTICAL

Write down the areas needing discipline and discuss how it went at the next eGroup.

SUBMISSION

CONNECT: Spend time connecting with each other.

KEY THOUGHT: Growing requires discipline AND spiritual discernment.

WATCH: Watch 'Session Four' of the video.

KEY VERSE: James 4:7

"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

OPEN

Start by discussing anything from the video that particularly stood out to your group.

Question 1

What are some limitations of discipline? Where in life is discipline not enough?

Question 2

When have you discerned that you are in a spiritual battle, not just a flesh battle? How did you respond?

STUDY

Read Philippians 2:5-9

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name."



Question 3

Observations of the verse. Who was it that humbled Jesus? (Himself).
How did He humble himself? (He changed His mind about His reputation).

Question 4

What can you expect from God if you followed Jesus' example of humility and submission?

COMMIT

Question 5

What area in life do you need to humble yourself, submit to God, and resist the devil?.

Question 6

Ps Sam explained that part of being 'grown up' is having the security and internal freedom that allows you to submit and serve. Do you find yourself able to do this, or is it an area you still need to grow in?

PRAY

Pray for both discipline and spiritual issues.

PRACTICAL

List some people that you need to submit to going forward and describe what that might look like.



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