

HONOUR

STUDY GUIDE



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Leader'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 DVDs and weekly Study Notes, 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 DVD 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 recapping how your last seven days has been, inviting members to share any opportunities they had throughout the week to apply what they learned, and how their individual activation went.

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.

ACTIVATE: As a group, read out and talk about the action in the study guide for that week. Decide together to commit to doing this action during the week to help you each grow and engage with God individually.

SUGGESTED TIME FRAMES FOR YOUR GATHERING:

ENGAGE: 15 minutes

RECAP: 10 minutes

WATCH: 10 minutes

DISCUSS: 30 minutes

PRAY: 5-10 minutes

ACTIVATE: 5 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!

Week One

ENGAGE: Spend time connecting with each other

WATCH: Watch Session One of the DVD

DISCUSS:

Key Verse: *“... those who honour Me I will honour, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed” [1 Samuel 2:3 NKJV]*

Ps Sam asked us, ‘how do we honour in everyday situations?’

Question: What are a few of the environments that you are in each day?

In which of these environments would you like to start looking for ways to show honour?

The Biblical definition of honour is to value, to put weight behind, or to highly esteem.

Question: How do you interpret honour? What does honour mean to you?

Every person values things differently. The value of something is not necessarily associated with its price tag, but with things that cannot be easily replaced.

Question: If your house was burning down, what belongings would you save?

Our relationships are the same, we each place value on them for different reasons.

Question: How do you know which people in your life you value? How do you behave towards them that shows that you value them?

Honour is not just for special occasions. We can bring it into everyday life.

Question: The Bible tells us to honour one another. Who in your everyday life have you not considered showing honour to before? Why should you?

1 Timothy 6:1 says “we as slaves are to honour those who are in a position of authority above us”

Question: Think of two or three people who are in a position of authority in your life. How are you honouring those people? How could you honour those people in a way that would be meaningful to them?

When you honour God, His Word, and His presence, it allows us to honour the rest of our relationships

Question: How might honouring God's Word and God's presence impact our relationships?

Isaiah 29:13 says "... these people come near to me with their mouth and honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me"

Question: What is the difference between 'honouring with our lips' and honouring with actions? Which is more difficult for you?

PRAY: Pray as a group, asking God to reveal to each person over the next four weeks where they could show greater honour in areas where they are lacking honour.

ACTIVATE: Begin your own study of honour in the Bible this week. Find a few verses in the Bible that speak honour to God. Write a few down and look for ways to make honouring God an everyday activity this week.

Week Two

ENGAGE: Spend time connecting with each other

RECAP: Did everyone enjoy the first week?

Our homework was to find verses that speak honour to God, and to think of ways to honour Him each day. How did you apply everyday honour to your relationship with God this week?

WATCH: Watch week two of the DVD

DISCUSS:

Key Verse: *But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honour except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house." Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.* [Mark 6:4-5 NKJV]

Honour is like an elevator, it lifts. It lifts marriages, workplaces, relationships, teams. Many people think dishonour is blatant disrespect, but it is actually treating something as ordinary or common.

Question: What are some areas in life where you can easily begin to treat things as ordinary or common?

The Nazareth crowd were not going out of their way to intentionally offend Jesus, they just treated Him as ordinary

Question: What are you treating as common which God sees as special?

It says in Mark 6:5 that Jesus could not do a mighty work in His hometown because of the lack of honour. The people of Nazareth dishonoured Jesus because they became familiar with Him. Familiarity is the foe of honour.

Question: How can we combat familiarity in our everyday lives?

Honour brings the wonder back to life. We can carry a 'spirit' of honour, an attitude that we hold at all times that helps us value the people and things around us.

Question: Do you know anyone who is great at honouring others, who carries a 'spirit' of honour? How do you feel around that person?

2 Corinthians 5:16 says "From now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer".

Question: What does 'regarding someone from a worldly point of view' mean? What is the opposite point of view?

We need to honour people for who they are, without stumbling over who they are not. The Bible says that if anyone is in Christ they are a new creation, can you see the newness in them?

Question: How good are you at getting past the flaws of others? What do you do when someone doesn't meet your expectations of them?

We are to honour all people, including ourselves. Sometimes in our self-talk we say things we would never say to anyone else.

Question: Can you look at yourself in the mirror and say "God has put a gift in me?" What are ways that we can honour ourselves?

There are gifts that have remained dormant, because someone hasn't seen it themselves, or there hasn't been an environment for them to be released.

Question: What could happen if we honoured one another, and honoured the gifts in one another?

PRAY: Break into pairs and tell each other one thing you love about them. Pray for each other. Thank God for the gift upon their life, and prophesy over them what you feel God is telling you.

ACTIVATE: Read Mark chapter 6 this week. Spend some time this week writing in your journal about the things that God is highlighting in your life where you need to add more value.

Week Three

ENGAGE: Spend time connecting with each other

RECAP: Did you identify any areas where you want to add value? What are you going to value more from now on?

WATCH: Watch week three of the DVD

DISCUSS:

Key Verse: “You are more righteous than I,” he said. “You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly. You have just now told me about the good you did to me; the Lord delivered me into your hands, but you did not kill me. When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the Lord reward you well for the way you treated me today. [1 Samuel 24:17-19 NIV]

It's easy to honour people who have your respect, or people who are worthy of your honour. It's harder to honour those who are dishonourable.

Question: What are some examples in your life where you've found it difficult to honour those who are dishonourable?

God often deliberately puts people in your world who you will find difficult to honour.

Question: What do those relationships teach you?

In 1 Samuel 24 David had every reason to kill Saul, and when he finally had the opportunity to do so he didn't. He chose to honour in this situation.

Question: What do you think stopped David from killing Saul?

“Irregular” people are the people in your world who are just not like you. When we honour these “irregular” people we are honouring God.

Question: What are the outcomes of honouring those who are dishonourable in your world? Do you have any examples from your life?

Forgiveness is something everyone is in need of. We need it as much as anyone. When we understand our own need, we can then offer forgiveness to others.

Question: How does practicing forgiveness help you to live an ‘everyday honour’ life?

Honour is also honesty. Conflict will always occur, and sometimes we need to have the difficult conversations with people that we don't want to have.

Question: Do you honour people in public but dishonour in private? How do you naturally deal with conflict?

The honouring way of dealing with conflict is to follow the instructions in Matthew 18. Read it now as a group.

Question 6: What are some honouring ways to resolve conflict?

1 John 1:7 says "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."

Question 7: Do you have any stories of how resolving conflict and honouring someone has helped you live free?

PRAY: Pray together for God's grace to help you live a life that honours God and others.

ACTIVATE: Read the story of David and Saul in 1 Samuel 24. Can you find another example of someone in the Bible who honoured the authority that was over them, even in difficult circumstances? Continue to look for examples of honour in the Bible this week.

Week Four:

ENGAGE: Spend time connecting with each other

RECAP: Tell us what you identified from David's life in 1 Samuel 24, or from another Biblical character you found, that you can or have applied in your own life.

WATCH: Watch week four of the DVD

DISCUSS:

Key Verse: *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."* [Matthew 6:33 NIV]

Order affects outcomes. If we want good outcomes in our life, we need to put the right order in place.

Question: What is God's kingdom? What do you think it means to 'seek first God's kingdom'?

We honour God by showing value for the things He values.

Question: What do you think are God's priorities?

As it has been mentioned before, dishonour isn't just blatant disrespect, dishonour is treating something or someone as common or ordinary.

Question: When it comes to church, do you find yourself treating it as common or casually at times? Why is this, and how can you show honour here?

We often stress about the little things, without establishing the key things in life. Matthew 6:33 says that 'all these things will be added to you' when you seek first God's kingdom.

Question: Have you ever had an experience of putting God first in an area, and other things working out and falling into place because of it?

Malachi 3:6-12, Proverbs 3:9-10 and Matthew 6:33 have all been mentioned in this week's DVD and talk about honouring God with our 'firstfruits.'

Question: How does tithing and giving to God from our finances honour Him? What is the significance of giving to Him first?

God doesn't want to be an afterthought, He wants to come first. Whatever you honour you will protect, praise and prioritise.

Question: How can you protect your time with God? What are some strategies to make this time a priority rather than an afterthought?

Matthew 6:33 illustrates the order to live our lives by. When you put the big things first, the small things will fit in around them.

Question 7: Can you identify some priorities in your life that need to be rearranged? How will you outwork this?

PRAY: Pray together that God will help you see what needs to come first, and that as you honour Him, He would honour you and make everything else work out.

ACTIVATE: Choose a person or environment that you have begun to treat as common or familiar. Think of a way to deliberately show honour to this person or in this space consistently. Make it practical.

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