

lentenSMALL groups

ST. LUKE'S UMC

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

MARCH 31, 2019

RELATIVE DOUBTERS

OPENING | 20 MIN

I. Welcome

Use these questions to enter into this week's discussion. You may also want to have people share a high/low from the week to get conversation flowing.

A. Take a few moments to share where you saw God at work this past week (perhaps through a Spiritual Practice, a conversation, a moment of quiet with God).

B. What elements of this week's story surprised you or made you want to know more? (For example, did you know before this week that Jesus had brothers?)

II. Group Values:

It's important that every group agrees on the values they want to have in their group.

Review the following values: openness, growth, authenticity, confidentiality, presence & empathy.

III. Spiritual Practices:

Each week, we will invite your group to try a different spiritual practice together. This week's practice is **presence/awareness/intentional eating. Try this practice of being intentionally present before you begin discussion.**

The sacrament of the present moment is described as a "discovery of divine action in everything that happens" (Jean-Pierre de Caussade). **Today:** Take a simple raisin, piece of bread, slice of apple, and notice the aroma, place it on your tongue, notice the texture, taste it. **At home:** Take a walk in nature, noticing the sunshine, the variety of different trees, the trill of a bird. Being in the present often leads to prayers of gratitude. **Next week let your group members know of your experience as you discuss the reflections of being intentionally present.**

For more information on these spiritual practices, please contact Rev. Regina Proctor (proctorr@stlukesumc.com).

GROUP DISCUSSION | 40 MIN

It is not essential to cover all of these questions. Conversation and exploration are more highly valued.

*Read aloud this week's Scripture text:
John 7:1-10*

A. What one idea stood out from Sunday's sermon that has caused you to think?

B. Some of the tension in this story revolves around time. Jesus' brothers are urging him to do something that it is not yet time for him to

do. In our lives, we often experience this as "Isn't it about time you" (get married, have a baby, get a new job, etc) questions. **What have been some examples of these questions in your life, and how do you respond?**

C. Expectations play a big role in this story and in our stories today. **Where do you feel the pressure to meet expectations? How do you navigate the tension of not needing to live up to this pressure while still being able to learn and be shaped by those with whom we are in relationship?**

D. Jesus remained confident in his call and mission despite his brothers' doubt. **How can we remain faithful to what God calls us to do even when people we care about don't understand?**

E. Notice that Jesus doesn't try to convince his brothers they are wrong or alter the timeline in order to meet their expectations. Instead, he trusts God with the outcome. **What is an area of your life with which you would like to trust God in a deeper way?**

WRAP-UP/ANNOUNCEMENTS | 15 min

I. Announcements

A. **Next Meeting Reminder:** Confirm again your next group meeting. This is the fourth week of our "Chance Encounters" series which will run through April 14.

Each week's sermons and guides will be posted on St. Luke's website the following Monday by the end of the workday.

Over →

B. **Serving Together:** Please sign up to serve together **THIS WEEK**, if you have not done so already. Our partners and ministry areas greatly appreciate you giving your time, talents, and resources!

C. **Holy Week:** Mark your calendars for these powerful Holy Week experiences!

April 15-19: Stations of the Cross (anytime church is open)

April 18, 7pm: Maundy Thursday Service

April 19, 12pm & 7pm: Good Friday Service

April 21, 6:30am: Easter Sunrise Communion
7am: Breakfast in Great Hall
8am, 9:30am, 11:15am in Sanctuary
9:30am and 11:15am in Chapel

II. Prayer Requests

A. Share prayer requests and have someone write them down to share with the group. Hosts can invite someone to close in prayer.

SPACE FOR PRAYER REQUESTS/ NOTES & IDEAS

Questions or Comments:
Contact: Mindie Moore,
Director of Groups and Young Adults
moorem@stlukesumc.com or 317-846-3404



St. Luke's

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