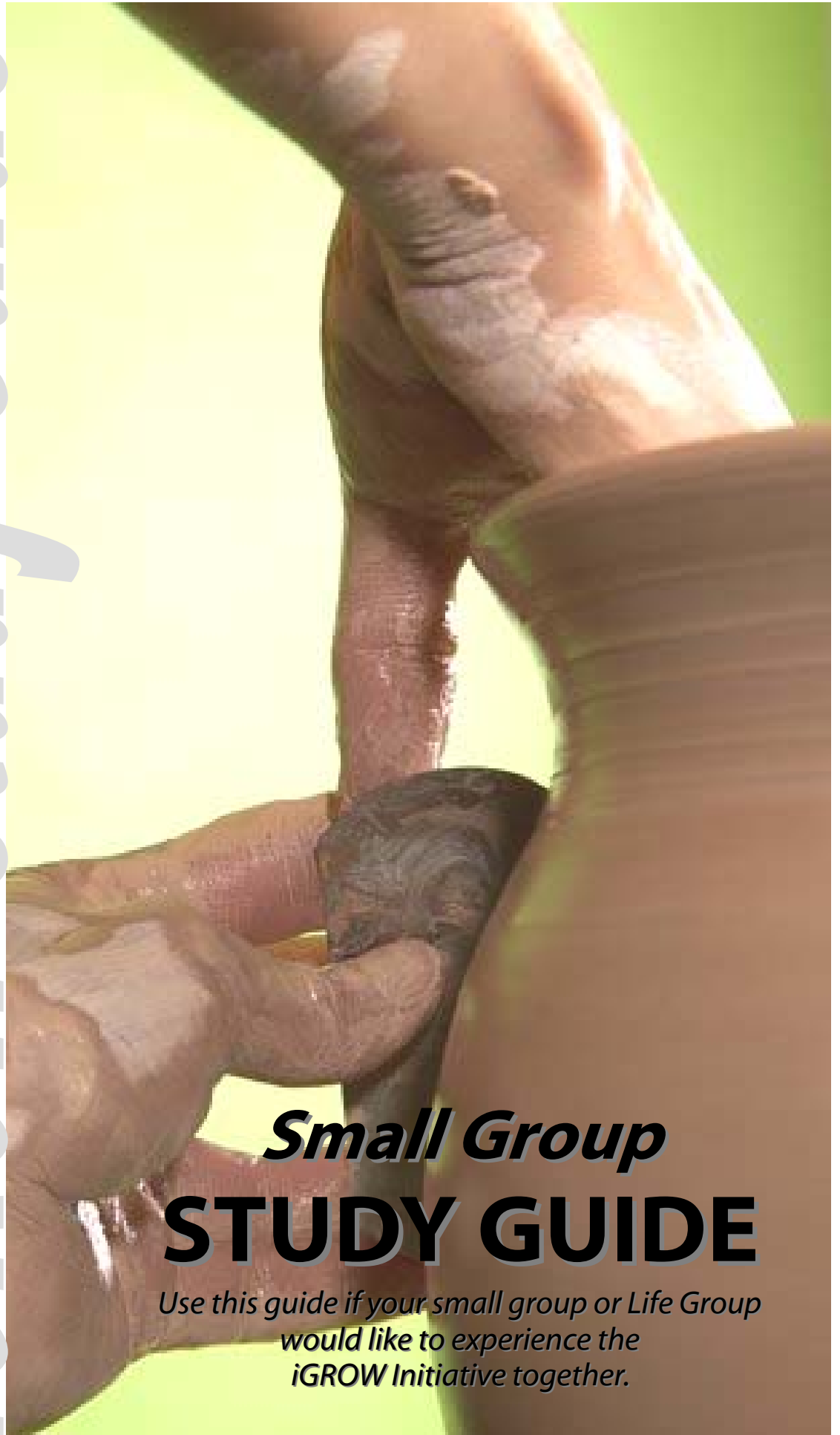


iGROW Study Guide



Small Group **STUDY GUIDE**

Use this guide if your small group or Life Group would like to experience the iGROW Initiative together.

iGROW Initiative ::

*Revealing your spiritual strengths and weakness
& moving toward personal spiritual growth*

WEEK #1:

Our study this week focuses on the value of spending time in God's Word and developing a deeper personal spirituality. The power of God's Word will be the cornerstone to walking deeper with God throughout the iGROW Initiative. As we go through this study together, be thinking about practical ways that we can experience spiritual growth in our lives!

Mixer/Opener: You can ask one of these questions:

- My favorite subject in school was ...
- When I was young, I wanted to be when I grew up.

Read Together: Psalm 119:105; 11

Discuss Together:

- 1) Was there ever a time in your life you had wished you had a flash light but didn't? Explain what was going on and how that light could have helped you out.
- 2) Have you ever considered God's Word to be a light in your life? In what ways?
- 3) How does verse 11 communicate the benefits of knowing God's Word?

Read Together: Hebrews 1:1-3a

Discuss Together:

- 1) When something really great happens (or something really difficult) who do you want to talk to first about it?
- 2) God has spoken to us through the prophets and His Son, Jesus Christ. What are some ways we can learn from them today?

iGROW: ask yourself privately the questions on the iGROW Initiative page on "God's Word." Also take a moment to write out your thoughts about this area on the lines below the questions. Once the group is done, ask the group if they have any general reflections or comments about the questions. [**NOTE:** allow for silence and wait for the first person to share their impressions about the questions. The idea isn't for everyone to unload "their junk" but just give some honest (and safe) assessment of this area of their life. Make sure there is no judgment or "put downs."]

Read Together: Philippians 3:12-17

Discuss Together:

- 1) What is one of the hardest things you've ever had to do? What helped you accomplish this task?
- 2) What is your greatest challenge as a believe in Christ ... at work? at home? in your community?

Continue: ask yourself privately the questions on the iGROW Initiative page on "Personal Spirituality." Also take a moment to write out your thoughts about this area on the lines below the questions. Once the group is done, ask the group if they have any general reflections or comments about the questions.

Conclude: End with a time of prayer. Begin your prayer time with 1 minute of silent reflection and confession. Then designate someone from your group to pray for the group.

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WEEK #2:

Our study this week focuses on two intricately connected items: prayer and reaching out to others. The power of prayer has changed the history of our world and continues to impact its present direction. Along with that, without prayer, our attempts to reach out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ will fall on deaf ears. As we go through this study together, be thinking about practical ways that we can experience spiritual growth in our lives!

Mixer/Opener: You can ask one of these questions:

- What is the coolest gift you have ever received?
- What is the coolest gift you have ever given to someone?

Read Together: Luke 18:1-8a

Discuss Together:

- 1) What does this passage say about persistence?
- 2) Have you ever experience the blessing of persistence - begging for something without yielding? This example doesn't have to be spiritual ...

Read Together: Matthew 6:5-8

Discuss Together:

- 1) What does this passage say about how we should pray?
- 2) How does this differ from how we pray in church ... or what we often feel is the "standard type of prayer" for our culture?

iGROW: ask yourself privately the questions on the iGROW Initiative page on "Prayer." Also take a moment to write out your thoughts about this area on the lines below the questions. Once the group is done, ask the group if they have any general reflections or comments about the questions. [NOTE: allow for silence and wait for the first person to share their impressions about the questions. The idea isn't for everyone to unload "their junk" but just give some honest (and safe) assessment of this area of their life. Make sure there is no judgment or "put downs."]

Read Together: Matthew 28:19-20

Discuss Together:

- 1) This passage is known as the Great Commission. Do you feel like Jesus was talking to all of us about "going and making disciples?"
- 2) How can the final sentence of this verse help you as you attempt to witness to others?

iGROW: ask yourself privately the questions on the iGROW Initiative page on "Reaching Out to Others." Also take a moment to write out your thoughts about this area on the lines below the questions. Once the group is done, ask the group if they have any general reflections or comments about the questions.

Conclude: End with a time of prayer. Begin your prayer time with 1 minute of silent reflection and confession. Then designate someone from your group to pray for the group.

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WEEK #3:

Our study this week focuses on two intricately connected items: personal worship and stewardship. Our desire to connect with God in a meaningful way is often expressed in worship. Further, one dynamic experience of worship is known as stewardship - the giving of our time and resources to the Lord. As we go through this study together, be thinking about practical ways that we can experience spiritual growth in our lives!

Mixer/Opener: You can ask one of these questions:

- When I come home from school/work, I really look forward to ...
- If you had unlimited cash to blow on 1 glorious vacation, where would you go?

Read Together: Romans 12:1-2

Discuss Together:

- 1) What does this passage say about personal worship?
- 2) What desires have you had to "sacrifice" for ... your work? your family? your home?

Read Together: Psalm 19:1-4; 14

Discuss Together:

- 1) What does this passage say about personal worship?
- 2) Have you ever been awestruck when looking at creation? Explain where and how.

iGROW: ask yourself privately the questions on the iGROW Initiative page on "Worship."

Also take a moment to write out your thoughts about this area on the lines below the questions. Once the group is done, ask the group if they have any general reflections or comments about the questions.

Read Together: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Discuss Together:

- 1) What does this passage say about giving cheerfully? What if you can't give cheerfully?
- 2) Who will supply your needs? Discuss how this happens?

Read Together: Matthew 6:19-20

Discuss Together:

- 1) What happens to our "stuff" on this earth?
- 2) Knowing this, what makes not wanting more "stuff" so challenging?

iGROW: ask yourself privately the questions on the iGROW Initiative page on

"Stewardship." Also take a moment to write out your thoughts about this area on the lines below the questions. Once the group is done, ask the group if they have any general reflections or comments about the questions.

Conclude: End with a time of prayer. Begin your prayer time with 1 minute of silent reflection and confession. Then designate someone from your group to pray for the group.

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WEEK #4:

Our study this week focuses on two intricately connected items: compassion & service as well as Christian Leadership. The greatest example of leadership in the New Testament is found in the life of Christ. How did he lead? As a servant. Amazing paradox! We have much to learn as we investigate these areas of our lives. As we go through this study together, be thinking about practical ways that we can experience spiritual growth in our lives!

Mixer/Opener: You can ask one of these questions:

- My favorite superhero is ... (or was ... when I was a child)
- My favorite TV show growing up was ... and my favorite show today is ...

Read Together: Matthew 26:37-40 (option of reading 26:31-46)

Discuss Together:

- 1) Has compassion ever been showed to you in this way (clothing, food, visits, etc)? Explain.
- 2) What often keeps us from acting with compassion?
- 3) Why do you think that these acts of compassion are so important to Jesus that he would use them as examples of how the Lord will separate mankind at the end of time?

iGROW: ask yourself privately the questions on the iGROW Initiative page on "Compassion and Service." Also take a moment to write out your thoughts about this area on the lines below the questions. Once the group is done, ask the group if they have any general reflections or comments about the questions.

Read Together: Isaiah 55:8-9

Discuss Together:

- 1) How do the words of God make you feel about your wisdom & leadership potential?

Read Together: Ephesians 3:20-21

Discuss Together:

- 1) In perspective of this verse, what is the role of the Christian leader? (key part of the passage is found in "according to his power that is at work within us")
- 2) How can God's power work in your life and impact others?

iGROW:: ask yourself privately the questions on the iGROW Initiative page on "Christian Leadership Development." Also take a moment to write out your thoughts about this area on the lines below the questions. Once the group is done, ask the group if they have any general reflections or comments about the questions.

Conclude: End with a time of prayer. Begin your prayer time with 1 minute of silent reflection and confession. Then designate someone from your group to pray for the group.

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WEEK #5:

Our study this week focuses on two intricately connected items: building quality relationships and making disciples. We were designed to be connected with others. We couldn't survive without our families - we need each other. As a Christian, there is no better stabilizing force than solid friendships. Further, at the core of being a disciple is quality relationships, as well. As we go through this study together, be thinking about practical ways that we can experience spiritual growth in our lives!

Mixer/Opener: You can ask one of these questions:

- My best friend growing up was ...
- I wish I could spend more time each day/week doing

Read Together: "Researchers found that the most isolated people were three times more likely to die than those with strong relationship connections. People who had bad health habits (such as smoking, poor eating habits, obesity, or alcohol use) but strong social ties lived significantly longer than people who had great health habits but were isolated. In other words, it is better to eat Twinkies with good friends than to eat broccoli alone." (from "Creating Community" by Stanley/Willits)

Discuss Together:

- 1) What are the benefits of having good friendships in your life?
- 2) What are the struggles that come from having good friendships in your life?
- 3) Why do you think that God made us to be so relational driven? No right answers ...

iGROW: ask yourself privately the questions on the iGROW Initiative page on "Building Quality Relationships." Also take a moment to write out your thoughts about this area on the lines below the questions. Once the group is done, ask the group if they have any general reflections or comments about the questions.

Read Together: John 6:60-69

Discuss Together:

- 1) Have you ever been rejected personally? What did that feel like?
- 2) Discipleship is not an easy thing. How does this section of scripture reveal that truth to you personally?
- 3) What makes the teachings of Jesus so difficult to follow at times? What can make them easy and a joy to follow at other times?

iGROW: ask yourself privately the questions on the iGROW Initiative page on "Discipleship Making." Also take a moment to write out your thoughts about this area on the lines below the questions. Once the group is done, ask the group if they have any general reflections or comments about the questions.

Conclude: End with a time of prayer. Begin your prayer time with 1 minute of silent reflection and confession. Then designate someone from your group to pray for the group.