

SERMON SERIES: The Final Chapters
SCRIPTURE: Luke 22:35-38
SPEAKER: Mike Woodruff
DATE: February 25-26, 2017

Small Group Discussion Guide

for leaders (see below for participants' guide)

Gathering Time

- Make sure newcomers are welcomed and engaged in conversation
- Offer a snack and drink if the setting is right (i.e. a home)
- Arrange seating so everyone in the group can see each other

Getting Acquainted

- **What is one takeaway from your last small group meeting? How are you doing putting it into practice in your life?**
 - As routine opener to group meetings, this question encourages individuals to apply your discussions in their lives. It also brings continuity & intentionality from meeting to meeting.
- **How resilient are you? Share a personal experience that illustrates your reliance (or lack thereof).**
 - This question sets the stage for the Bible Exploration and helps people get to know one another on a personal level.

Bible Exploration

- **Read Luke 22:35-38 as a group and reflect on Jesus' instructions to his disciples. What statements stand out and why? Are there things you don't understand? Discuss.**
- **Jesus gave his followers two different assignments. The first (described in Luke 10:3-4) was early in their development, and through it Jesus taught them God would meet every need. Now Jesus gives them a new assignment and tells them to pack well and bring a weapon. What does this say about the situations they would be facing?**
- **What challenging circumstances are you facing that require a different kind of preparation than you've experienced in the past?**
- **In his sermon, Mike sums up Jesus' teaching by saying we are called to courage. Along with the disciples, we are being told that things may be hard, and we need resolve and resilience. He offers three perspectives to help build our resilience.**
 - Expect hardship and difficulty so that we are not surprised by it.
 - Think more about eternity so that we live today in light of forever.

SERMON SERIES: The Final Chapters
SCRIPTURE: Luke 22:35-38
SPEAKER: Mike Woodruff
DATE: February 25-26, 2017

- Be formed by Christ's example as he persevered through trials.
- **Which of these perspectives is most needed for you as you face difficulty?**
- **What is one takeaway from this week's discussion you can begin applying to your life this week? Be specific, and be prepared to share next time how it went.**

Prayer

- Invite the group to participate in a time of "conversational" prayer. Each person may pray as often as he or she wants, but only 1-2 short sentences on one topic at a time. This lowers the barrier of participation for people unaccustomed to praying with others.

Wrap-Up

- Be sure to end the formal conversation on time.
- Thank newcomers for joining you, and invite everyone to the next meeting.
- Encourage people to linger for a few minutes, and do your best to have a personal interaction with each individual before he or she leaves.

SERMON SERIES: The Final Chapters
SCRIPTURE: Luke 22:35-38
SPEAKER: Mike Woodruff
DATE: February 25-26, 2017

Small Group Discussion Guide

for participants

Getting Acquainted

- **What is one takeaway from your last small group meeting? How are you doing putting it into practice in your life?**
- **How resilient are you? Share a personal experience that illustrates your reliance (or lack thereof).**

Bible Exploration

- **Read Luke 22:35-38 as a group and reflect on Jesus' instructions to his disciples. What statements stand out and why? Are there things you don't understand? Discuss.**
- **Jesus gave his followers two different assignments. The first (described in Luke 10:3-4) was early in their development, and through it Jesus taught them God would meet every need. Now Jesus gives them a new assignment and tells them to pack well and bring a weapon. What does this say about the situations they would be facing?**
- **What challenging circumstances are you facing that require a different kind of preparation than you've experienced in the past?**
- **In his sermon, Mike sums up Jesus' teaching by saying we are called to courage. Along with the disciples, we are being told that things may be hard, and we need resolve and resilience. He offers three perspectives to help build our resilience.**
 - Expect hardship and difficulty so that we are not surprised by it.
 - Think more about eternity so that we live today in light of forever.
 - Be formed by Christ's example as he persevered through trials.
- **Which of these perspectives is most needed for you as you face difficulty?**
- **What is one takeaway from this week's discussion you can begin applying to your life this week? Be specific, and be prepared to share next time how it went.**

Prayer