

2026-02-08 Small Group Guide

Small Group Guide: Living Holy in a Divided World

Based on the sermon from 2 Peter 2-3 and Matthew 21:28-32

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Ask someone to open in prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and help everyone be honest about where they are in their walk with Christ.

Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Question: Share about a time when you said "no" to something but later changed your mind and did it anyway. What caused you to change your mind?

Key Scripture Passages

Matthew 21:28-32 - The Parable of the Two Sons

2 Peter 2:18-22 - Warning Against False Teachers

2 Peter 3:3-14 - The Day of the Lord

Discussion Questions (40-50 minutes)

Part 1: Understanding Our Nature

The Two Sons: In Jesus' parable, which son do you most relate to—the one who said "no" but later obeyed, or the one who said "yes" but didn't follow through? Why?

Prejudice and Perspective: The pastor mentioned that we all have prejudices and tend to see things from a "skewed perspective." What areas of your life might be affected by prejudice or biased thinking rather than biblical truth?

"My Truth" vs. God's Truth: How have you seen the phrase "my truth" used in our culture? What's dangerous about prioritizing personal truth over

God's revealed truth in Scripture?

Part 2: God's Restrictions as Gifts

Freedom or Restriction? The pastor said God's commands aren't restrictions but gifts because He knows what's best. Can you think of a biblical command that you once viewed as restrictive but now see as protective or freeing?

Regrets: The pastor stated, "I don't believe I will have any regrets obeying God in heaven." Have you ever regretted obeying God? Have you regretted not obeying Him? Share an example.

Part 3: The Coming Fire

Two Fires: According to 2 Peter 3, what are the two fires we should be concerned about? How should the reality of these fires change how we live today?

Distracted by Division: The pastor used the forest fire analogy—when fire comes, natural enemies run together. How does this apply to the divisions we see among believers today? What "fires" should unite us instead of divide us?

Living Holy Lives: 2 Peter 3:11 asks, "What kind of people ought you to be?" How would you answer that question based on the passage? What does "holy living" look like practically in 2026?

Part 4: Personal Application

Church Attendance: The pastor asked, "Have you ever gone to church when you didn't feel like going and then regretted going?" Why do you think we're tempted to skip church for things we'd never skip work for?

Worship Preparation: If heaven is continuous worship, and we don't enjoy worship now, what does that tell us? How can we cultivate a heart of

worship in our daily lives?

Leading Others to Christ: The pastor asked how many have actually led someone to Christ (not just invited them to church). Why do you think this is difficult for many believers? What would help you be more confident in sharing your faith?

Key Takeaways (10 minutes)

Have different group members read these aloud:

Obedience brings no regrets. We won't regret following God's Word, but we will regret ignoring it.

God's Word is truth, not "my truth." Personal feelings don't override biblical truth.

We're called to be holy, not just saved. Salvation is the beginning, not the end goal.

Two fires are coming: The fire that will destroy this earth and the fire of judgment for those who reject Christ.

We sin less when we're together. Community and accountability matter.

Jesus is either Lord of all or not Lord at all. Partial surrender isn't surrender.

Practical Applications (15 minutes)

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to commit to this week:

Daily Worship: Set aside 10-15 minutes each day specifically for worship (prayer, praise, reading Scripture with the intent to honor God).

Holiness Audit: Ask God to reveal one area of your life where you're

compromising or ignoring His Word. Write it down and share it with one trusted person for accountability.

Perspective Check: Identify one prejudice or biased viewpoint you hold and compare it honestly with Scripture. Are you judging by God's standards or your own preferences?

Witness Preparation: Study the salvation passages in Acts and be prepared to share the gospel with someone this month.

Forest Fire Mindset: Reach out to one believer you've been divided from or distant toward. Remember, the real enemy isn't each other.

Accountability:

Share which commitment you're choosing with the group

Exchange contact information with at least one person to check in mid-week

Closing Reflection (5 minutes)

Silent Reflection Questions:

Is Jesus truly Lord of ALL my life, or just parts of it?

What would change if I really believed Jesus could return today?

Am I more concerned with what people think of me or what God thinks of me?

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Have someone close in prayer, specifically asking God to:

Help each person live with eternity in mind

Give courage to pursue holiness over comfort

Unite believers despite differences

Prepare hearts to share the gospel boldly

For Next Week

Read 2 Peter (all 3 chapters) in one sitting

Come prepared to share one thing God revealed to you through your weekly commitment

Bring a friend if possible

Leader Tip: Create a safe space for honest sharing. The goal isn't to shame anyone but to encourage growth. Model vulnerability by sharing your own struggles with obedience and holiness.