

WEEK 3: Can God Trust You?

FACILITATOR'S NOTE:

- ✓ Start your group discussion with the “Check-in” question to help your members reflect back on their week and follow up on last week’s application challenge.
 - ✓ Review the “Big Idea” to help you gain clarity around the heart of this week’s message and focus your group’s discussion towards a clear direction.
 - ✓ Read this week’s scripture passages together and guide your group through the “Discuss” questions to initiate meaningful dialogue around key concepts or insights from this week’s message.
 - ✓ Move your group discussion to a deeper level by leading them through questions in “Apply”. Use discernment to customize these application questions to meet the needs & dynamics of your group.
- NOTE:** You do not have to cover all the questions provided in “Discuss” and “Apply”.
- ✓ Connect with God together as a group through this week’s “prayer practice”, which can be in the form of a prayer exercise or some guidance on what to pray for in relation to the message or application.

CHECK-IN	In what ways were you able to offer up some of your “treasures” to Jesus this week?
BIG IDEA	<p>Most of us spend our lives wondering or questioning if God is trustworthy. Can I depend on Him during difficult moments? Can I trust Him with my life and family? We ultimately realize through Scripture and life experiences that God’s gifts are generous and His care is constant. However, if we ask ourselves, “Can God trust me?” the answer becomes more difficult. Have we ever considered that God may be looking for people He can trust?</p> <p>Trust is dependability—a deep confidence in someone. There are three questions we must ask ourselves. First, can God trust me through pain? Second, can God trust me with provision? Third, can God trust me through prosperity? Genuine leadership is having the strength of character to be entrusted with treasure and still maintain our desire for God through pain or prosperity.</p>
DISCUSS	<p>Read Luke 1:26-35, and place yourself in the story, from the perspective of Mary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How would you react if God asked you to be the earthly father or mother of Jesus, the Messiah? Could God entrust us with such important responsibility?2. Mary faced misunderstanding from her fiancé, Joseph. She was accused of something she did not do. How do we react to misunderstanding or rejection?3. Mary experienced disappointment as she watched the disciples and

	<p>Jewish community walk away from her son at his most painful hour. How do you react to disappointment?</p> <p>Read Matthew 25:14-30. Pastor Samuel shared about the Parable of the Talents where he described three characteristics found in a trustworthy person:</p> <p>Vision of what is expected from the person who has given the treasure. Love (respect) for the person who gave the treasure. Diligence to accomplish the vision.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Do we have a vision of who Jesus should be in our lives?6. Do we love Jesus with all our hearts?7. Are we diligent in serving Jesus?
<p>APPLY</p> <p>How do we respond to God's teaching in meaningful ways? What might God ask of us in mind, spirit, or actions?</p>	<p>This week's Application task is done through the Prayer Practice.</p> <p>In lifegroup, we can become comfortable with discussing, talking and sharing. So how can discussion lead to action? There is also value in reflection, which takes time and space. There is an independent portion, and a group portion.</p>
<p>PRAYER PRACTICE</p>	<p><i>Prayer is one form of application because it is a response to God. Group prayer time does not have to be in the form of prayer requests. You may decide to create a group culture where members send out prayer requests throughout the week, so that group prayer time is more intentional and focused as a response to that week's teaching. As always, use discernment if there is a pressing personal need that requires immediate care through prayer.</i></p> <p><i>For groups with busy schedules, sometimes a take-home application can be daunting. This prayer practice is intended to be a shared experience, that you can reflect on together afterwards. It is about introducing different ways to experience God together, and to deepen our relationships with Jesus.</i></p> <hr/> <p>Reserve 30 minutes for this entire exercise. Prayer is communication, and often times we can get used to doing most of the talking. Ask your group members to spread out in your meeting space, and to pray privately, or in</p>

pairs, asking God to reveal Himself about:

- a) Lord, what place do You want in my life?
- b) Lord, how can I love with you with all my heart?
- c) Lord, how can I be more diligent in serving You?

If you feel stuck, reflect **with** God, on some of these questions. You may want to use your Bibles to see what it says on these topics:

1. Write down a list with two columns: How can you spend our time **with** Jesus? How can you spend our time **for** Jesus?
2. If you faced or are facing limited financial resources, similar to Mary and Joseph, would you still honour God through giving?
3. If God were to entrust one million dollars to you, what would you do?
4. Can God trust you in painful moments that you won't abandon him or the lifestyle of generosity?
5. Are you committed to serving Jesus even when people misunderstand you or don't appreciate you?
6. Two major trust killers are: a) losing faith in God the minute circumstances don't go our way b) putting ourselves at the center of our relationship with God, rather than God at the center. Have any of these two affected your relationship with God?

At the 15-minute mark, regroup together and share your experiences:

What did you hear, or sense from God?

How did you learn?

What questions do you still have?

What is one thing that you can put into practice this week?