

WEEK 4: How to Rule

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	Was there a time this week where you found that God's gifts are generous and His care is constant? Explain. Did God "trust" you with anything this week?
BIG IDEA	Stewards oversee someone else's property and affairs on their behalf. God's intention for his followers is to be stewards of all creation on his behalf looking out for God's interests and purposes.
DISCUSS	Read Genesis 1:28 and Psalm 50:1-4; 8-15. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Has it ever occurred to you that God may have placed people and resources in your care on His behalf?2. "Stewards are caretakers not owners. Owners have rights. Stewards have responsibilities." Are there people places or things in your life that you have a hard time seeing as a steward on God's behalf and not a owner? How about your home, your finances, job, significant other or kids? Explain.

APPLY

How do we respond to God's teaching in meaningful ways? What might God ask of us in mind, spirit, or actions?

1. What has God entrusted you with that you could do a better job overseeing on his behalf? What do you have to do to make that happen?
2. What resources has God made available to you to rule on His behalf for His kingdom (finances, time, talents, opportunities)? Give an example.
3. What resources has God made available to your life group collectively that your group could use on His behalf to fulfill His purposes?

PRAYER PRACTICE

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.

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.

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 pairs, asking God to reveal Himself.

In the message, Jon shared that. "If I think I'm the owner of the resources and opportunities in my life, if I am focused on myself at the expense of treasuring Jesus and focusing on his purposes, if I forget that God has given me a purpose to which he holds me accountable, and if I try to depend on my own strength, I will never be the steward God intends. I will never be able to rule and manages his affairs the way he desires for me."

1. Give ten minutes for silent private prayer. In the silence, group members are to give God the right to rule their treasures in this world and give them back to God. This is a quiet time of giving God our treasures in gratitude, humility and praise. Then listen and focus on God in quiet meditation. Allow Him space to respond.
2. Come back together as a group and share your experience. What was it like to give your treasures back to God? What did you hear/feel God say

in response?

3. Take up prayer requests allowing one request per person. Have one recorder write out the requests and send them out as an email mid week to remind the group to pray for each other during the week.