



Small Group Leader Guide

This small group plan will be used to lead your small group to discuss a passage of Scripture in the Foundations 260 Bible Reading Plan. Your group can review a passage from the week before, preview an upcoming passage in the current week, or discuss the sermon from the previous Sunday (Sermon Based Discussion Guides are available each week on the church website).

Remember that the focus of the Foundation 260 Plan goes through the H.E.A.R. model. The acronym H.E.A.R. stands for Highlight, Explain, Apply, and Respond. Each of these four steps contributes to creating an atmosphere to hear God speak. Notice that all of the words in the H.E.A.R. formula are action words. And that is the challenge for you as a group leader, to help your group get into the Word, so that the Word will get into them and transform their lives, priorities, thoughts, and actions.

HIGHLIGHT

- **Read the Text** - Ask for someone to read the text aloud. Or you read the text aloud.
- **Look for Highlights** - As the text is read, tell the group to be looking out for the highlights (a particular verse, something new learned, a reminder, a question, etc.)

EXPLAIN

- To whom was it originally written? Why?
- How does it fit with the verses before and after it?
- What is the Holy Spirit intending to communicate through this text?

APPLY

- What does this mean today?
- What is God saying to you personally?
- How can you apply this message to your life?

RESPOND

- In what ways does this passage call you to action?
- How will you be different because of what you've learned?
- What is a prayer to God in response to what you read today?

Sample Group Discussion

Examples of Responses for Each Component

HIGHLIGHT

- **Read the Text [Philippians 4:10-13]**- Ask for someone to read the text aloud. Or you read the text aloud.
- **Look for Highlights** - As the text is read, tell the group to be looking out for the highlights (a particular verse, something new learned, a reminder, a question, etc.)

EXPLAIN

- Paul was telling the church at Philippi that he had discovered the secret of contentment. No matter the situation in Paul's life, he realized that Christ was all he needed, and Christ was the one who strengthened him to persevere through difficult times.

APPLY

- In my life I will experience many ups and downs. My contentment is not found in circumstances. Rather, it is based on my relationship with Jesus Christ. Only Jesus gives me the strength I need to be content in every circumstance of life.

RESPOND

- I need to strive to be content in the Lord. Through his strength I can rely on him to make it through any situation I must face.