

POINT GROUP LEADER GUIDE WINTER WEEK #8

May 3rd, 2025 |

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing & leading your group in discussion.

LEADER NOTES

✂ PRAYER NOTE

Remember to follow up on prayer requests from last week!

✂ ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please take the time to look at the announcements and see what may be applicable to your group. We need your help to get the information out!

✂ ATTENDANCE!

REMEMBER – WE CAN'T LOVE PEOPLE IF WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please read through these and make sure to mention them if they apply to your group.

Bold items are happening this week.

May 10 – Serve Saturday

May 10/11- Mother's Day – CAKE POPS!

May 17 – Women's Prayer Brunch

May 18th – Student Party @ 6:30

May 25 – NextGen @ Top Golf

Any additional information and signups are available on our website. If you have a member who needs more specific details, please have them send an email to Pastor Tim at ttrinkle@pointharbor.com

DISCUSSION/LEADER GUIDE

Warm Up

1. What weekly task do you have that causes you to feel like you are *suffering*?
Try and do your best to keep this light! Don't worry, we'll get into the "heavy stuff" later on.
2. Have you ever overacted to a "first-world problem"? What was that like? Why was it such a big deal? (i.e., no Wi-Fi on your flight, Starbucks ran out of brown sugar syrup...)

Know It

READ: Philippians 1:27-30

1. What does it mean to live the Gospel in a 21st-century context?

The evidence of the Gospel is a life lived with the Fruits of the Spirit. Think about what that would mean for your group. Use this time to ask people to intentionally consider what it would look like if they had more fruits, or fruits at all, in their workplace, marriage, parenting...

Our culture, over the past 10-15 years, has swung back and forth on what it means to be a 21st-century Christian. We've had everything from pastors who swear in the pulpit to hyper-angry churches that protest at every opportunity. Let's not overcomplicate things. The Gospel lived in the 21st century context is the same as it's always been! Just lived by you and me and our Great (x10) Grandparents. It's just 21st-century people doing *redeemed* 21st-century things. As a leader, take a moment to expand on what this looks like in your daily walk. Do you stop to help people change a tire? Do you act joyful, no matter what? Are you patient when forced to wait?

2. How is suffering a "Gift"? What is Paul trying to communicate here?

We often judge how effective a workout is by how sore we feel the next morning. When starting a new fitness routine, it's actually kind of exciting to wake up stiff—you tell yourself the workout DVD and those weights you impulse-bought at 2 a.m. last Saturday are finally doing something! Sure, it hurts to play with your kids, or breathe, but deep down, you believe the pain means you're on your way to looking just like the people on TV.

In the same way that David and Chuck help us work out our physical muscles, Jesus is working on our hearts and minds. And just like physical training, this spiritual transformation can hurt—emotionally, physically, and spiritually. But here's the good news: that pain means growth. It's a sign that Jesus is at work. He uses suffering as a gift to shape us and make us more like Him.

Can you think of a time when Jesus was working in your heart, when it hurt, but now you can look back and see how it made you more like Him?

3. Paul tells us not to live in fear of our opponents. How is that possible?

Let's look to one of Jesus' teachings from the Gospel of Matthew.

"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell."

— *Matthew 10:28 (ESV)*

It helps to think clearly about what people can do to us. For most of us, the worst thing that might happen is losing a job, getting made fun of, or—if we play sports—losing our spot on the team. Most people in America today don't face death for following Jesus like Christians did in the first century. So why are we so scared of people who can only mess with our lives right now? Once we're in the loving arms of our Savior, their threats will be forgotten, and anything they did to us will be wiped away. Just like we wouldn't be scared of a robber holding a half-empty water gun, we don't need to fear people who go after us for following Jesus and sharing the Gospel.

4. In relation to the above question, who are our "opponents"? Are they people we don't get along with or is he talking about something deeper?

Paul is

Live It

1. Suffering usually doesn't feel like victory. How do we continue to suffer for the sake of the Gospel when we are tired, hurting, and losing hope?

We cannot do it unless the Holy Spirit causes something in our heart that allows us to take another step where another human would throw in the towel. We *must* continue to fill ourselves with the Holy Spirit at every opportunity. If you only have a 15-minute break at work, spend it in prayer! Leave your phone in your pocket! If you must endlessly rock a fussy infant, what better time to cry out to our Lord? Both for your sake and the sake of the child you're carrying. Most healthy adults have 16 waking hours, most of them taken by "life"; we must intentionally carve out time to receive the water of life!

2. In John 10:10, Jesus promises us "life more abundant". How can this be true if following Jesus means we will suffer?

Do you remember when you started seeing the new Bronco driving around town? Because of the COVID economy, it wasn't unusual to see the nicer ones trading hands for almost \$100k. What was more amazing was that people were immediately taking them on 4x4 trails in the west. There are videos online of people denting, scratching, crashing, and abusing these hard-to-get, very expensive SUVs. It's easy to look at them and think, "You guys are stupid, if I had one of those, I would never...". I wonder what we would hear if those SUVs could talk. They were designed to get their owners into some of the toughest places to get to in America, and in those viral videos, they were doing just that! *They were doing exactly what they were DESIGNED to do.* For us, we thought the owners needed their heads checked. We may have thought "more money than brains", but I'd imagine those Broncos were saying "*I'm living the best life, door dings, lost paint, broken axles and all*". Life is more abundant, but it isn't free from suffering or pain. Life is more abundant is life with more Jesus, more purpose, and more of doing exactly what God designed you for.

3. What would it look like for you to suffer for the Gospel this week? This year?
(Resist the urge to answer this quickly! Be sure to spend some time in prayer.)

This Week I'm Praying For...

Use this space to take notes on how you can pray for your group

