



CONNECT TO COMMUNITY

Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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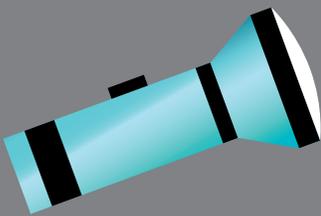
JULY 15, 2018

1. PRIMARY STATEMENT: “Changing the world” is a popular idea in America - from childhood, we were told we could change the world if we try hard enough. Of course, we learned early on that this wasn’t meant to be taken literally. No one person could actually make the entire world better, right? As representatives of God, that’s exactly what we’re called to do. Make our world better, one community at a time.

2. DISCUSSION:

Matthew 5:14-16 [ESV]

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”



God’s plan for Christians is for us - collectively - to shine light & truth into the dark world around us.

Q. When you read these verses, do you normally hear the “you” as singular, or plural?

Q. Which problems in your community do you take an active role in trying to address? Which problems do you passively accept?

Q. What are 2 or 3 problems in your community that would improve if the people involved began living God’s way?

3. CHALLENGE:

Matthew 5:3-9 [ESV]

“Blessed are the poor in spirit... Blessed are those who mourn... Blessed are the meek... Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness... Blessed are the merciful... Blessed are the pure in heart... Blessed are the peacemakers.”

We impact our community by living with God’s character as our driving force. When we live a transformed life as a connected, active part of our community, we bring the creative, life-giving power of the Holy Spirit to every area, and with it, the greatest hope for change that the world has ever seen.

Q . When you edit your thoughts and actions to line up with God’s way, do you do it for the sake of God’s relationship with you, or His mission to reach the people around you?

Q . The brokenness of your community can be healed when people see the example of God’s power in your life. How does that impact the importance you put on living God’s way?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Take a few minutes as a family: thank God for filling your life with importance by making you part of His work to bring light to the world. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to live His way in the context of community.



WHO ARE YOU CHAINED TO?

Family Devotional/Overflow Kids Discussion Guide

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JULY 15, 2018

1. POWER VERSE: Proverbs 27:17 *“As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.”* What’s Up: **“I Will Choose Friends Who Will Lift Me Up!”**

This week, we continue our series called, “Prison Break.” In this lesson, we learn from the example of Paul and Silas. We learn that each of us must be careful who we connect ourselves with. We need friends who will be willing to “sing” with us even in the darkest hours of our lives.

2. DISCUSSION:

Acts 16:25-26 “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying. They were also singing hymns to God. The other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a powerful earthquake. It shook the prison from top to bottom. All at once the prison doors flew open. Everyone’s chains came loose.”

Q. What did Paul and Silas do while in prison? Were they sad and upset?

Q. What happened to Paul and Silas while they were in jail?

Q. What did the earthquake cause to happen?

Each one of us have days where nothing seems to be going right. The car won’t start, traffic is backed up and makes you late for work, and you get in trouble with your boss. Those days are very tough. It’s easy for us to get down in the dumps and feel like we are all alone. It’s in those moments that true godly friends can step in to lift our spirits and remind us that God is in control.

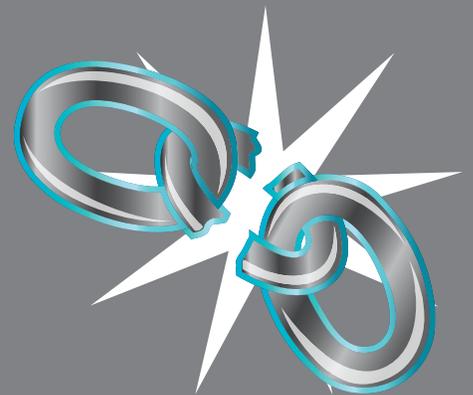
3. CHALLENGE:

Q. Do you have godly friends to help you in tough times?

Q. Have you ever faced a situation where you needed godly friends?

Q. Did you have friends there for you?

Q. Are there any friends in your life that aren’t godly influences?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for your children that God would lead them to godly people. Pray for them to pick the right friends that will direct them to God, not away from God. Pray for them if they feel like they are in bad relationships that need to change.