

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

Exodus 3:1-15

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
- What truths do you run to when you are tempted to doubt the reality of God or the authority of His scripture? Are there any apologetic truths that seem to strengthen your faith in the Lord?
- What is the purpose of apologetics?
- What amazes you most about Scripture? How is Scripture different than any other book that claims to be from God?
- **Read and discuss** the following quote.
 - Imagine a radio with 66 stations. As you flick rapidly between them, you notice something very odd. The songs sound different – country and western collides with hip hop collides with opera – but each new vocalist is developing the same story.
The Bible contains 66 documents. Approximately 40 authors wrote in three different languages over a period of about 1,500 years. Some of the authors were young, some were old; some were professionals, others were peasants; some were soldiers, others were civil servants, fishermen, farmers, or kings. They wrote in widely different genres, history, population statistics, poetry, travel diaries, law, prophecy, family trees, biography, geographical surveys, architectural blueprints, song lyrics. They wrote in different periods of history, in different geographical locations, to different groups of people. It was not like a relay race, with one author handing on the baton to another. Often, the authors wrote centuries apart.
Consider that for a moment. What if multiple authors had each written a single page of a little book? What if each author wrote in different genres, in different centuries and in different countries, with no “master plan” for them to consult? What is the likelihood that it would make any sense at all?
Yet the Bible has a single theme running all the way through it, like rings in the trunk of a tree. It tells the unified, coherent story of humanity’s creation

by God, humanity's rebellion against God, and God's redemption of His people. It's like flicking between 66 different stations and finding that each is advancing the same story, a grand symphonic drama that grows in beauty as it develops.

As well as having a single theme, the Bible has a single hero. Each of these 66 documents, even the ones written hundreds of years before Jesus' birth, are all singing the same song. And the song, consistently is about Jesus. As Jesus said: "these are the very scriptures that testify about Me" (John 5:39).

– **Barry Cooper**

- Have you ever struggled with seeing the Old and New Testaments as connected? What were (or are) some of your struggles?
- **Read and discuss** John 5:37-39. Why is this a remarkable statement by Jesus?
- **Read and discuss** Luke 24:26-27. According to this passage, how should we interpret the Old Testament?

3 Points of Sunday's sermon

- I. The Meaning of Yahweh
- II. The Revealer of Yahweh
- III. The Name of Yahweh

The Meaning of Yahweh

- How does the statement in Exodus 34:6-7 seem contradictory?
- **Read Romans 3:23-26** and answer the following questions:
 - According to this passage how were Old Testament believers justified?
 - How did God stay true to His own holy nature and law and yet save sinners?
 - What does it mean that God is both "just" and "justifier" of those who have faith in Jesus?
 - How does Romans 3:23-26 help explain how God can be both 100% merciful and at the same time 100% just?
- How does the cross clear the name of God of any injustices? Read the following quote on Romans 3:23-26 to help answer this question.
 - "Paul was thinking in temporal terms, acknowledging that before the incarnation and death of Christ there had been something like a stain on

God's name. For centuries he had been refusing to condemn and instead had actually been justifying sinful men and women – men like Abraham, who was willing to compromise his wife's honor to save his own life; Moses, who killed an Egyptian; David, who committed adultery with Bathsheba and then murdered her husband, Uriah, to cover it up; and women like Rahab, the prostitute of Jericho. God had been saving these people. When they died he did not send them to hell. It would seem to anyone looking on that he had merely been passing over their sins– forgiving them, yes, but unjustly. Was God unjust?

No, says Paul. In the death of Christ, God's name is vindicated. It is now seen that on the basis of his death, God had been just when he justified the ungodly.” – **James Montgomery Boice**

The Revealer of Yahweh

- Who was in the burning bush? Read Exodus 3:1-4 & Acts 7:30-35 to help answer this question.
- Who is The Angel of the Lord? Read the following passages to help answer this question.
 - Genesis 16:11-13
 - Genesis 22:9-14
 - Judges 6:12-14
 - Judges 13:15-20
 - Exodus 23:20-21
 - Zechariah 1:12-13

The Name of Yahweh

- In the Old Testament the name of God (YHWH) is used over 6,800 times. What does this tell you about the importance of God's name in the Old Testament?
- **Read Philippians 2:5-11** and answer the following questions.
 - What phrases did Paul use to point to the deity of Christ?
 - What phrases in this passage confirm the true humanity of Jesus?
 - In what specific ways did Christ humble himself?
 - How did Paul describe God the Father's exaltation of Christ?
 - What is the name that is above every name?

- **Leaders Cheat:** remember Paul is a Jew that knew the Old Testament extremely well.
- What does it mean that “Jesus is Lord?” Do you live as if this is true?
- Surrendering to the lordship of Christ will affect your priorities, values, and behavior. How does living under Christ’s lordship change how you approach the following areas of your life?
 - Work/Career
 - Family/Home life
 - Handling Money and possessions
 - Stewardship of time
 - Stewardship of spiritual gifts, natural abilities, relationships, and opportunities.

“O, you Shepherd and Ruler of all, Christ my God, who for no merits of mine own, but of the sole gift of your mercy, have called my littleness to this pastoral office, for your own sake and for your name’s sake make me fit for this ministry, that I may wisely rule your house, and in all things be able to feed your flock according to your will. Grant, for your loving kindness and for your goodness’s sake, that I may become in your house a burning and a shining light; grant, for the honor and glory of your name, that with much good fruit I may be found worthy to attain to your glory, for to you nothing is difficult or impossible.”

– **Anselm Archbishop of Canterbury 1033-1109**