

Small Group Discussion Guide — January 31, 2021

- Special Service: Interview with Andrew and Norine Brunson, Missionaries to Turkey
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PREPARATION:

Watch David's interview with Andrew Brunson [here](#).

CONNECT:

How do you typically plan and prepare for a long trip? Pack a little at a time over a long period? At the last minute? With a list? Online research about your destination? What's your approach to feel prepared?

AFTER WATCHING THE INTERVIEW, DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:

1. Andrew said that his imprisonment broke him several times, and he realized he had to fight for his relationship with God. He said, "Offense in my heart against God took me to a place where I could no longer receive truth." How do Andrew's words strike you? Have you ever experienced a time when this was true for you? Share if you feel comfortable.
2. During the lowest times in his faith, Andrew said he did two things repeatedly: 1. Engaged with his *will* (not emotions) to turn toward God instead of away from Him, and 2. Practiced spiritual disciplines (praying, remembering scripture, meditating, etc.). What are your thoughts about his response? What practices have you found helpful during times of crisis, when you don't feel God's presence?
3. Andrew is sharing his story because he believes significant pressure is coming to the Church in America. He wants us to be prepared so we won't run when we're afraid. He said God taught him that instead of focusing on the *ministry*, God wanted him and Norine to *run after God's heart*. What's the difference? What are some examples of that playing out in your own life?
4. Discuss this quote: "A lover will endure hardship. A servant, less so." Would you say your life with God resembles more of that of a servant, or a lover? Share why you think so. What are some ways you can live the life of a lover of God, and how that would enrich your soul and those with whom you interact.

PRAY:

Father God, thank you for how you have worked through Andrew and Norine Brunson, and for their courage in sharing this story with us. As Andrew learned to pray, we ask that you make us hunger and thirst after you. We also pray that you would draw us so close to your heart that you will be able to trust us with the authority to start waves in the world we inhabit. In Jesus' name, Amen.

GOING DEEPER:

Check out wavestarters.org, the Brunson's website that tells their story, and learn how you can become part of the wave that God has begun through Andrew's experience.