



HIGH SCHOOL AND ADULT GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GROUP PREP

In preparation for group, [watch Emmanuel's weekend service message](#), download the [Walk By Faith: 21-Day Devotional](#), and then answer the following discussion questions.

SOCIAL TIME (10-15 minutes) - For Leaders

Have an ice-breaker ready, eat a snack together, or go around the circle asking your group members to share any news since your last meeting if your group is continuing from last semester. Be intentional in helping your group members get to know one another during this time and make it fun.

Ice-Breaker Suggestion: Print and utilize the [Bag O' Questions](#) ice-breaker questions. Simply print and cut the questions into strips and put them all in a bag or bucket. Have a group member randomly select a question from the bowl and have each group member answer.

CHECK-IN (15-20 minutes) - For Leaders

Ask everyone to describe how their action step went this past week. Many may have elected to do the 21-day fast and Walk By Faith Devotional. How did it go this week?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (45-60 minutes)

[2 Corinthians 5:7](#) encourages, "For we must walk by faith, not by sight." Faith should be a lifestyle. It should be how we approach life and the thing that distinguishes us from others in the world.

1. The summer Olympic games host all sorts of athletic events that bring the best in their field together. One event is archery. Athletes with finely honed skills seek to hit the target with incredible accuracy from seemingly impossible distances. How do these athletes achieve these challenges when most of us cannot? Discuss the focus and training needed for the type of aim that allows the athlete to hit the target both in archery and any skill-based event.

Walking by faith isn't an athletic competition, but it requires that we focus our aim on things that please God. When you think of walking by faith, what are the characteristic traits someone possesses that indicate they have the right aim to 'hit the mark'?



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2. Read [Proverbs 6:16-19 \(NLT\)](#). This passage conveys many things that God hates. These are things that take our aim off of Christ. Sometimes spreading discord or propping ourselves up with pride is an overt action but often, these leak out in sneaky, subtle ways. In what ways do we, even inadvertently, demonstrate pride or spread discord to those around us?

Pastor Danny mentioned two things that God hates: pride and discord. Is there one you feel like you struggle with more than the other? Why?

What is the potential cost to ourselves and others for spreading discord or having a prideful spirit?

3. Read [Proverbs 12:22 \(NLT\)](#) and [Romans 13:10 \(NLT\)](#). In the same way that God was direct in stating the things He hates, He also declared the things He loves, which include humility, obedience, love, and honesty, to name a few.

Out of these four things, which one do you feel like you excel at the most? Why?

Think of a challenging situation you are currently facing or have faced in the past. If you aimed your thoughts, actions, and responses at the things God loves, how might it change how the situation is or was resolved?

4. This week, what specific steps can you take to purge pride and discord and replace it with an attitude that pleases God?

ACTION STEP (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the following or create your own.

- **Serve others.** Join the [Impact Team](#) by registering for Emmanuel's next Impact 101 on February 1.
- **Daily time with God.** Determine the type of routine you'd like to have to spend time learning about what pleases God. Here are some ways to do this:
 - o Download and participate each day in the [Walk By Faith: 21-Day Devotional](#).
 - o [Download the Emmanuel app](#) and read the One Year New Testament daily.
 - o [Download the YouVersion app](#) and find a devotion you can do daily.
 - o If you recently placed your faith in Christ and texted SAVED to 65248, and read the devotional provided in your starter kit.



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PRAYER (5-10 minutes)

Give everyone in your group an index card. Ask them to write their name and action step on one side and a prayer request on the other. When finished, have everyone pass their cards to the left. Everyone in the group now has someone to connect with throughout the coming week for three reasons:

- 1) To build the relationship.
- 2) To encourage them to accomplish their action step.
- 3) To pray for in a specific way.

Ask them to place the index card on their nightstand or another place that would allow them to see it and use it every day.

GROUP SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

To determine how your group can serve together in the surrounding community, email Breanne Schafer, Emmanuel's Outreach Coordinator, at bschafer@eclife.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1 | [Impact Team Night](#) (text TEAM to 65248 to register for this event)

February 6 | [Baptism Services](#)

February 14 | [VERB](#)

February 18 | [1824](#)

You can find more information on all of these events at eclife.org.



MIDDLE SCHOOL OBJECT LESSON & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GROUP PREP

In preparation for group, [watch Emmanuel's weekend service message](#), download the [Walk By Faith: 21-Day Devotional](#), and then answer the following discussion questions.

1. The summer Olympic games is host to all sorts of athletic events that bring the athletes together. Have you ever seen an archery competition? Their goal is to hit the bullseye right in the middle of the target.

As we learn to walk by faith, we need to keep our eyes on what God loves and seek to get rid of what God hates.

Read [Proverbs 6:16-19 \(NLT\)](#). In your own words, what are some things that God hates that happen in our own lives today?

Read [Proverbs 12:22 \(NLT\)](#) and [Romans 13:10 \(NLT\)](#). In your own words, what are things that God loves?

ACTIVITY:

Materials needed:

- Rubber bands (5 per student)
- Print outs of what God loves and what God hates
- Wall tape

To play:

Let's see how our aim is with a "rubber band target shooting" exercise. You will see several papers with words showing things that God loves and things that God hates on the wall. Your goal is to hit only the targets that God loves, but you have to take careful aim to get the band where you want it to go.

There are a couple of rules that you must follow if we want the game to continue.

- You will get your rubber bands when it is your turn.
- You may shoot only at the targets. Your fellow group members are not the target.
- Everyone will surrender your rubber bands at the end of the game.

The game ends when everyone has had at least one turn. The winner is the student that hit the most targets of things God loves.

2. Our game was fun but let's talk about how we can actually take aim at things that God loves. Sometimes spreading discord or being prideful is done on purpose. Still, often these sneak up on us, and we have said and done things before we even think



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about it. In what ways can we be prideful or spread words that divide with those around us in our own lives?

What kind of harm can these actions do to our relationships with others and with God?

3. If we are careful about our aim with our words and actions this week, what are two specific actions that you can do to focus on what God loves?

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