Inseparable- Week 2

HIGH SCHOOL AND ADULT GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GROUP PREP

In preparation for group, <u>watch Emmanuel's weekend service message</u> 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: If you could be in the Guinness book of world records, what record-breaking feat would you attempt?

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

Ask everyone to describe how their action step went this past week. Many groups have been on a three-week break, so return to the goals you set and share how you are doing on those items you have been individually working on.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (45-60 minutes)

The statement, "God loves you," can bring about different emotions for different people. For some, it brings hope, but it can be hard to trust for others because of the impact of negative circumstances endured in life. When we consider the love Jesus demonstrated through dying on the cross, we see that the love of God turned the worst defeat in history into the greatest victory. It created an inseparable link between God's love and his people.

1. Let's get to know your skills. What is something in which you would consider yourself an expert? What skills do you find that your friends or family call on you when they have a need?

Just like when Pastor Danny talked about plumbing this weekend, sometimes we know about something but do we understand it? Throughout this series, we seek to hone our understanding of the magnitude of God's love and the power that trusting him can have on our life.

2. Read <u>Ephesians 3:14-20 (NLT)</u>. Practically speaking, what do you think it looks like to have your roots grow down into God's love to keep you strong?

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3. This world has no shortage of hardships. We all know people or have personally suffered from things like illness, job loss, relationship struggles, betrayal, financial setbacks, to name a few. What is something with which you are currently struggling?

When we experience negative circumstances, what are some symptoms we might see in our lives that would be a good indicator that we are not putting our trust in God?

Read Romans 8:28 (NLT) and Isaiah 26:4 (NLT). Now, what attributes would be visible in your life if you approached life fully trusting God as an immovable rock working for our good? What would you see if you fully embraced this truth?

4. <u>Jeremiah 32:27 (NLT)</u> says, "I am the LORD, the God of all the peoples of the world. Is anything too hard for me?" Will you trust in his love to provide you inner strength? This week, what is one tangible step you can take to begin to trust God and surrender what you can't control to experience the inseparable love of God?

ACTION STEP (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the following or create your own.

- **Begin** a 30-day gratitude journal. Each day take 5-10 minutes to write down the things for which you are grateful. This discipline can bring to the forefront the good you see God doing each day in your life and the world.
- **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:
 - Download the Emmanuel app and read the One Year New Testament daily.
 - Download the YouVersion app and find a devotion you can do daily.
 - If you recently placed your faith in Christ and texted SAVED to 65248 and read the devotional provided in your starter kit.

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.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

April 11 | VERB

April 22 | <u>1824</u>

May 8-9 | Baby Dedication & Mother's Day Weekend

May 16-22 | Last week of Small Groups semester

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