



HIGH SCHOOL AND ADULT GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GROUP PREP

In preparation for group, read [Ruth 1](#), [watch Emmanuel's weekend service message](#), then answer the following discussion questions.

SOCIAL TIME (10-15 minutes)

Use this [Sentence Starters](#) icebreaker, choose from one of the other ice breakers on Emmanuel's [leader tools](#), or create your own.

CHECK-IN (15-20 minutes)

Ask the group what they learned after completing their action step. Last week's question was, "What changes do you need to make this week to be more generous with your time, energy, talents, money, and resources?"

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (45-60 minutes)

Over the last several decades, our culture has dramatically shifted from "we are all in this together" to "every man for himself." This hyper-individualized environment has caused us to lose trust, meaning, purpose, and a connection with others. How do we navigate our way back to joy-filled living? One significant trait of a joy-filled life is commitment.

1. What is commitment? When have you witnessed a remarkable example of commitment?

What would you say you are committed to? What actions demonstrate you are committed to the areas you identified?

2. The story of Ruth exemplifies what a life of commitment looks like. After Naomi's husband and two sons died, Ruth committed herself to Naomi. Read [Ruth 1:16 \(NLT\)](#).

Ruth committed to something beyond herself – the well-being of an old widow. When have you been committed to something that stretched beyond the scope of your livelihood?

God has ingrained in us the desire to seek joy through identity and purpose. How does commitment play a part in producing identity and purpose in our lives?

3. Read [2 Timothy 4:7-8 \(NLT\)](#). What's the difference between commitments that hold eternal value and those that do not?

What are you committed to that holds eternal value?

What eternal value commitment could you be allowing to pass by?



Made to Give – Week #2

4. Read [Matthew 28:18-20 \(NLT\)](#). Emmanuel is committed to the vision of seeing people come to Christ and grow in Christ. In what ways can we see this vision fulfilled?

What are you feeling led to commit to this coming week?

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 December 14th.
- **Read** the book, [The Second Mountain](#) by David Brooks.
- **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 the Emmanuel Church app](#) and read the One Year New Testament daily.
 - o [Download the YouVersion app](#) and find a devotion you can do daily.
 - o Purchase a [Jesus Calling](#) devotional and read it daily.
 - o Devote time daily to using the [Bible Project](#) and the video teaching offered.

FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW FOR THIS UPCOMING WEEK'S ACTION STEPS.

My action step is _____.

This coming week, I will encourage _____ to complete their action step.

Their action step is _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I will pray for the group's following prayer requests:

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |



Made to Give – Week #2

PRAYER (5-10 minutes)

Give everyone in your group an index card. Ask them to write their name and action steps on one side and a prayer request on the other side. 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 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

November 19 | [1824](#)

December 6 | [VERB](#)

December 12-13 | [Baptism Services](#)

December 14 | [Impact Team Night](#) (text TEAM to 65248 to register for this event)

December 17 | [1824](#)

More information on all of these events can be found at eclife.org.



Made to Give – Week #2

**MIDDLE SCHOOL OBJECT LESSON &
GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS****ACTIVITY:****Materials needed:**

- *various jars, cups, and bowls
- *pennies
- *tape to mark lines on floor

To play:

Set up the jars, cups, and bowls on the floor throughout your meeting space. Mark several lines with tape in front of the jars. Make the first line right in front of them, the next line a few feet back, the next even further, etc. Do this until the final line is all the way across the room from the jars.

Give each student 5 pennies. Explain that the goal is to get the pennies into the jars by tossing them. For each penny they land in a jar, they get two more pennies. If they don't make it in a jar, they get nothing.

Have the students line up behind the first line and let everyone toss a penny. Give the students who make it into a jar two more pennies. The ones who don't make receive no pennies.

Once everyone has gone, move them to the next line and repeat. Continue through all the taped off lines. Once students run out of pennies, they are out of the game. Once you are at the last line, have students compete until there is just one student left.

1. That was a pretty interesting game, right? To win, you had to get more pennies than anyone else. But to get more, you had to give up the ones you already had. That made it difficult, right?

That's kind of how it is in life, isn't it? God gives us things—money, talents, time—and we have the choice of what to do with those things. We can have an attitude that says it's all about us, leading to loneliness. We can overcome loneliness through deep and loving commitments to people in our lives and in our commitment to the things God says is important.

When you think about your life, how you spend your days, what would you say you are committed to?

How do you show that you are committed to those areas that you just identified?

2. The story of Ruth illuminates what a life of commitment looks like. After Naomi's husband and two sons died, Ruth chose a path of purpose. Read [Ruth 1:16 \(NLT\)](#) aloud.

Ruth committed to something beyond herself – the well-being of an old widow. When have you been committed to something that stretched beyond the scope of your schoolwork, sports, hobbies, etc.?



Made to Give – Week #2

What if you were as committed to your relationship with Jesus as you are to the areas of interest we talked about. How would your life change if you had the same commitment to loving God and loving people?

3. Commitment to people in your life can help you live the abundant life. It combats loneliness and allows you to develop grit to overcome hard things. How can you grow your commitment to people and to your relationship with God this week?



Made to Give – Week #2

PRAYER (5-10 minutes)

Give everyone in your group an index card. Ask them to write their name and action steps 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 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

November 19 | [1824](#)

December 6 | [VERB](#)

December 12-13 | [Baptism Services](#)

December 14 | [Impact Team Night](#) (text TEAM to 65248 to register for this event)

December 17 | [1824](#)

More information on all of these events can be found at eclife.org.