

NORTH STAR | LEADER'S GUIDE | WEEK 2

GROUP FORMAT

- Start each group on time
- 10 minutes: each person has 2 minutes to share how their past week went, including a report on their weekly practice (in Week 1, we will not discuss this)
- 40 minutes: discuss the content from that week
- 10 minutes: Close in prayer, praying over the specific concepts of the group

WEEK 2 – BIG IDEAS

In Week 2, we learn that the Bible is one story. The central theme is that God has always wanted to dwell with his people.

- Day 1 (A Brief History of “With God”): We begin our overview of scripture by learning that God created a perfect world where He walked with the original humans. Unfortunately, sin separated them from God.
- Day 2 (Tabernacle): God delivered his people so that he could dwell with them.
- Day 3 (Incarnation): Jesus is our Perfect Sacrifice and Perfect High Priest. He saves us from our sins and invites us into the presence of God.
- Day 4 (New Temple): Because of Jesus’ death, God now dwells in us through the power of the Holy Spirit. We look forward to the day when God will dwell with us in the new heavens and the new earth.
- Day 5 (God Wants You to Be a Tree): Learning about the practice of reading scripture.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How was your time of “Solitude”?

2. Why is it important that we consider the original design of God’s creation?

- *The story of creation teaches us many things that God valued (see the complete list on Week 2 – Day 1 under the heading “How The Story of Everything Begins”).*
- *Understanding the beauty of original creation helps us see how far sin has taken us, what Jesus died to restore, and our hope in the new heavens and the new earth.*

3. We learned on Day 1 that “Sin Always Separates”. **How have you seen sin separate in your life and in the world?**
 - *This is a great opportunity for you as the leader to be open and vulnerable. Your group will be as authentic and honest as you are. Lead the way.*
 - *In the world, sin separates us from God and divides us from each other. All of creation is under a curse because of sin.*
4. Read Jeremiah 2:13. **What can we conclude about sin from this passage?**
 - *Sin can be defined as us abandoning God and his Word as our source of life and seeking other things for our ultimate joy.*
5. Day 2 gave us an overview of most of the Old Testament. **Why is the Old Testament important?**
 - *You may have to explain the difference between the Old and New Testament.*
 - *The Big Idea of the Old Testament is that God dwelled with and blessed one nation (the Israelites) so that they would be a blessing to all the nations. Ultimately, they were not able to be a blessing because of their continued sin cycle. The nation of Israel paved the way toward Jesus.*
6. Read Hebrews 10:11-14. **Why did Jesus need to die?**
 - *Jesus died as our Perfect Sacrifice and our Perfect High Priest. As our Perfect Sacrifice, he died to pay for our sins because we could not pay for them. As our Perfect High Priest, he died so that we could have access to God.*
7. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. **How does thinking about your body as a temple of the Holy Spirit change things for you?**
8. Practice reading a passage of scripture together using the S-O-A-P method.
 - **Pray first**
 - **Scripture:** Read Philippians 2:5-11
 - **Observe:** Ask everyone to make several observations about the text. Be vigilant about this. Don’t allow applications.
 - *What is the context? Practice the 5 W’s and an H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How). What are the important phrases?*
 - *Remember: you can learn a lot just by looking.*
 - **Apply:** Ask everyone to share an application.
 - *What does this passage tell me about God and His story? Is there a command to obey? A promise to believe? A warning to listen to? A truth to meditate on?*
 - **Pray:** Pray about that application