

NORTH STAR | LEADER'S GUIDE | WEEK 3

OUTLINE OF EACH NORTH STAR GROUP MEETING

- 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 3 – BIG IDEAS

In Week 3, we discover the pitfalls and distractions that disrupt our walk with Jesus.

- Day 1 (More Than Marvel): It is possible to get really excited about the things of God but move on with our lives without changing anything.
- Day 2 (Four Soils): Jesus tells a story about four responses to his message about God's kingdom.
- Day 3 (Rocks): We can become discouraged by the trials and difficulties in our lives.
- Day 4 (Thorns): We can become distracted by the riches and pleasures of this world.
- Day 5: (Just Do It): Learning about the practice of prayer.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **How was your time reading scripture this week?**
2. On Day 1 of this week, we discussed that we live in a “Marvel and Move On” culture that creates an endless cycle of hype, obsession, binge, and boredom. **Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?**
3. **Why is a “Marvel and Move On” culture detrimental for our spiritual lives?**
 - *“Marvel and Move On” is often opposite of how God moves in our lives. God often takes a long time to develop something in our lives (Jacob, Moses, David, Jesus, and Paul all spent extended seasons in the wilderness). He often speaks when we are quiet and still (see Psalm 46:10).*
4. **Have you ever noticed either sin or self-righteousness hardening your heart? How did that affect your walk with Jesus?**

5. **Have you ever walked away from God because things got too difficult?**
6. **What distractions (thorns) are most likely to cause you to drift from a relationship with God? How could you remove those things from your life (the machete)?**
7. **Which of the three soils (hard heart, trials, or distractions) is most likely to derail you in this season?**
8. Consider our P-R-A-Y acronym (Praise, Repent, Ask, and Yield). **Which of these comes the most natural to you? Which is the most challenging?**
9. Close by discussing prayer. Ask if there are any questions about practicing prayer. Encourage your disciples that the goal is not perfection but taking small steps on the journey.