



BIG IDEA SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. Do NOT feel like you have to use every question. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

03.13/14.10 // Consumed ^ Spiritual Preparations for Launch

**BiG iDEA: Let's prepare ourselves for God's new thing by fully devoting ourselves to Him.
Put God first in everything.**

// Ice Breaker _____

Option 1: Besides God, what would you say consumes you? How does this affect your life?

Option 2: Share a time that you were involved in something worthwhile, which required a lot of effort.

Note: Does not have to be related to the Church.

// Questions for Discussion _____

-----**Prayer Prepares Us By Directing Our Focus**-----

1. Read John 2:17

His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

What is the difference between approaching God as consumers and being consumed?

How do you think we can develop less of a consumer mind-set and a more 'consumed with God' mind-set?

2. BIG IDEA: Let's prepare ourselves for God's new thing by fully devoting ourselves to Him. Put God first in everything.

What would be some signs that someone wasn't fully devoted to God?

What are some practical ways to be fully devoted to God and put Him first?

3. Read Deuteronomy 1: 7 - 8

The LORD our God said to us at Horeb, "You have stayed long enough at this mountain. Break camp and advance into the hill country of the Amorites; go to all the neighboring peoples in the Arabah, in the mountains, in the western foothills, in the Negev and along the coast, to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, as far as the great river, the Euphrates. See, I have given you this land. Go in and take possession of the land that the LORD swore he would give to your fathers...."

Why do you think the Lord gets us out of our comfort zone and makes us work for something

He has promised? How can we balance the ideas of working hard and total dependence on Him?

Is there some area where you know what the Lord would have you do, but it's difficult or risky or costly?

Is it time to "break camp and advance"?

4. Read 1 Chronicles 4:10

Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request...."

Why does God want us to pray for things He already knows we need or desire?

Is there some way you're desiring for God to bless you, or expand your territory? Is there some "Promised Land" that God may be challenging you to step out in faith and claim as your own?

5. Read Colossian 4:2-5

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Colossians 4:2-5

Is there a time when you've had to make a decision, so you asked God to "open a door"? Do you need Him to open or close doors right now?

-----**Fasting Prepares Us For God's Work**-----

6. Read Matthew 6:16

"And when you fast, don't make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get." —Jesus, Matthew 6:16

Why do you think prayer and fasting often go together? Fasting is a spiritual principle throughout the Bible. Though not a requirement in the New Testament, why do you think it may be a good practice for Christians? How do you see fasting help prepare the way in Allen Park?

-----**Giving Prepares Us For His Blessing**-----

7. Read Luke 6:13

"No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

**How does what we do with our money impact our relationship to God?
How does giving make you more "bless-able"?**

8. Read 2 Corinthians 8: 7 - 8

...See that you also excel in this grace of giving. I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love....

**How is giving a spiritual act?
Why is giving seen as a test?**

// **Application** _____

Commit to memory Colossians 4:2

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Participate in the Prayer Vigil and/or the United Day of Prayer and Fasting on March 19 &20.

// Prayer _____

That we would prepare spiritually by praying, fasting and giving. That Southpoint would be a “house of prayer”.

For those you know who need Christ or a church home, that God gives you opportunities to invite them for Easter services.

- Launch To Do List**
- ✓ *Pray Daily*
 - ✓ *Participate in a Big iDEA Group*
 - ✓ *Attend Allen Park Info mtg. March 21*
 - ✓ *Bring a special offering/commitment. March 27/28*
 - ✓ *Serve on the Launch Team*