



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).

07.31//8/1.10 // You Don't Have What it Takes: You Can't Control the Future.

BiG iDEA: *Proverbs 3 : 5 – 6. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths. We do not know what the future has in store for us, but Our God holds the future as well as our lives in His hands.*

// **Ice Breaker** _____

Option 1: If there was one thing you could control about the future what would it be? Why would you pick that?

Option 2: What are some of your favorite books (besides the Bible)? What makes them your favorites?

// **Questions for Discussion** _____

1. **Matthew 6: 26** Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?
What things about the future do people worry about?
Have the group share some of the things that bother them about the future.

2. **Matthew 6: 33 - 34**
 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.
Is it easy not to worry? What things would help us to not to worry?
How do we seek His kingdom and His righteousness?
What does this say our priorities should be?

3. **Genesis 12: 1**
 The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you."
What kinds of things do people have to leave behind to do God's will in their lives?
What things do you have to leave behind?
In what ways does Satan try to sabotage our leaving?
In what ways do we sabotage ourselves?

4. Hebrews 11: 8

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

Did God show Abraham what was in the land?

How can we have the faith to do what God wants us to even if we aren't shown the final outcome?

What choices or changes do you need to make in order to be obedient to God?

5. Jeremiah 29: 11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

When is it hardest to believe this promise?

Have the group share how they see God's plan working in their lives.

6. Isaiah 41: 10

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

How can fear keep us from realizing God's plan for our lives?

What are some ways we can overcome fear?

7. Mark 5: 35 - 36

While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?" Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

How can belief be an antidote to fear?

How has God worked in situations that caused you to fear?

8. Proverbs 3: 5 - 6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

How can not trusting God keep us from realizing God's plan for our lives?

What do you think it means that He will make your paths straight?

Does this mean we shouldn't think for ourselves? Explain.

9. Hebrews 13: 5

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

How can knowing that God will never leave us help us to face the future?

How can you give comfort to others about the future?

10. John 5: 24

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

Do most people think about the future in terms of eternity? Why do or don't they?

What is meant by crossing over from death to life? How can this give us security about the future?

// Application _____

Read and commit to memory . Proverbs 3: 5 & 6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

- **What is one fear that you can ask God to help you with?**
- **With what concrete action can you show your faith in the Lord this week?**

// **Prayer**_____

Ask God to take control of any area where you are worried about the future.

Ask Him to replace your worry with His peace.



It makes no sense to worry about the future.