



Discussion Guide: May 23 & 24, 2020

***How to use this discussion guide:**

Step 1: Watch our Online Worship Gathering on Saturday at 5pm, or Sunday at 8:00am, 9:30am, 11am, 5pm, or anytime during the week at www.wacc.net

Step 2: Pray for the time together with your group (family members, community group members, friends, etc.), asking God to guide your discussion. (Guide is written for 12 years of age+)

Step 3: Read the "sermon overview" section with your group, and begin with the "connect relationally" questions, moving on to the "Engage Scripture" questions.

Step 4: Pray for your group members and for our community.

Step 5: Seek to follow Jesus throughout your week, looking for ways to creatively apply what you learned into your life, and the lives of the people you come in contact with.

Sermon Overview:

This week, Pastor Zack honored our class of graduating high school seniors, creating space for them to share honestly about the difficulty of this season, as well as where they have seen God at work in their lives and beyond. In the same way, Pastor Zack invited all of us into the tension of grieving the loss of “normal” because of COVID-19, while at the same time finding hope that God is still at work. Like we see modeled by Jesus when Lazarus died, and by the Apostle Paul acknowledging the anguish he experienced in seasons, we are encouraged to be honest about the pain of life, and to grieve it. As we move through the stages of grief and support others as they do, we might be surprised to find that someday we could experience gratitude as we realize that God used even the worst of situations in our lives to bring about growth. We are not thankful for pain or loss, but we can be thankful that God continues to show up in our dark world.

Connect Relationally:

1. Catch up on your week using the “emotions/ feelings wheel” (attached at the bottom of this document) to make a relational connection with your group. You can share 1-3 “feeling words” from the wheel that most-closely describe what you experienced this week. Making yourself vulnerable to your group in this way can feel uncomfortable at first, but it can help build deep trust and connection.
2. Was there anything in the sermon or overview that grabbed your attention? What about it stood out to you?
3. We honored the graduating high school seniors this last Sunday! Do you remember your senior year of high school? Where did you go to school, and what was senior year like for you?
4. Do you feel like you’re grieving the loss of “normal” like Zack described due to COVID-19? What top 3 aspects (A certain relationship? A routine? Perhaps a hobby? Or even your work?, etc.) are you missing most from your normal life?

Engage Scripture:

5. In 1 Thessalonians 4:13, we see that believers don't need to grieve like those who have no hope. Referencing this verse, Pastor Zack said that the point of this verse can't be: "don't grieve at all," because so many verses in scripture point to trials and difficulties in this life. What do you think this verse means, and what does it look like to grieve and hope simultaneously? Have you ever experienced this?

6. In Romans 12:15 it says we are to "rejoice with those who rejoice, and to weep with those who weep." On a scale of 1-10, how skilled/ effective are you in rejoicing with those who rejoice? (1 being poorly, 10 being perfectly) Also, on a scale of 1-10, how skilled/effective are you at weeping with those who weep? (1 being poorly, 10 being perfectly) Why do you score yourself in the way you did?

7. In 2 Corinthians 2:4, we see that the Apostle Paul is being very honest about the difficulty and anguish that he was feeling. Who in your life can you make yourself vulnerable to in this way? What about them makes you feel comfortable to do so? If you don't have anybody who comes to mind, what do you think get's in the way of having/ finding this person?

8. In John 11:35, we see the verse: "Jesus wept," even though he knew he would raise Lazarus from the dead. Who in your life needs you to be present to them in the way that Jesus was to his friends in their grief? What can you do to be emotionally present for them this week practically speaking? Let your group know how it went at your next meeting!

Prayer:

9. Is there anything that you would like us to pray for you about now, or during this week?

Service:

10. Go to <http://www.lovehittier.org> for an up to date list of opportunities!

Emotions/ Feelings Wheel from "Connect Relationally" Question #1.

