



Group Discussion Guide

Who do you trust: Week 3

For groups meeting August 16 evening through August 23 morning.

Psalm 20

This psalm is a writing of King David, but also includes phrases from a gathering of people. The setting is “the sanctuary,” which in David’s day would be the tabernacle because the first temple was built by his son, King Solomon. This psalm was likely written as David was preparing for battle. He spent time in the tabernacle to ask for God’s leading and blessing for this endeavor. The first five verses record an intercession by those who gathered and prayed for their king. Verses 6-8 are the words of King David as he acknowledges that he and his people trust only in God, who he knows will provide the victory. The final verse is the closing prayer by the people for the king.

James 1

James, the brother of Jesus, wrote to Jewish believers who had been scattered far beyond the borders of Israel. In what is believed to be one of the first New Testament writings, James encourages these believers to have a positive perspective regarding trials they face. These challenges help followers of Jesus grow in faith. James reminds believers that God gives good gifts to His children, and that prosperity does not necessarily mean one is blessed by God. He also focuses on obedience to God, which comes through doing what God says in His Word, and not only hearing it.

1 Corinthians 3

The Apostle Paul addresses divisions in the church at Corinth, and targets how some believers had separated themselves based on the human leaders they claimed to follow. Paul admonished the Corinthian believers for this, and reminded them that he and his fellow laborers only did what they were commanded, and that God is the one who brought forth fruit in the lives of people. Jesus is the one and only foundation of the church, and each believer is to build on that foundation while trusting God to achieve results that are according to His will. Followers of Jesus are not to be tied to other people, but only to Jesus.

Joshua 1

The mantle of leadership of the Jewish people had been passed from Moses to Joshua. Moses had died before entering the promised land, and now Joshua was charged with leading Israel into the land that God had provided for them. God spoke to Joshua and repeated the message, “Be strong and courageous, for I am with you.” Joshua was instructed by God to keep the law on his mind constantly, and to obey what it says. Israel’s new leader then charged the officers of the people to go throughout the camp and prepare them for the journey ahead. He

reminded them of God's promise and declared that it would indeed be fulfilled. The people responded by committing themselves to following Joshua's leadership.

1 Samuel 24

David was on the run from King Saul, who had renewed his hunt for the man he knew would one day take his place on the throne of Israel. Saul came to a cave to find a private place to relieve himself (yes, that's in the Bible), and it so happened that this was the same cave where David and his men were hiding. David's men encouraged him to take Saul's life in that moment, and end the threat he had faced for so long. David, however, refused to murder Saul. He acknowledged Saul as the current king placed in that role by God. He snuck up to Saul in the darkness and cut off a piece of his robe, and even felt guilty about doing that! But then he used that piece of cloth to show Saul he would not harm the king. After Saul left the cave, David called out to him and showed him the piece of robe as proof that he had the opportunity to kill the king and refused to do so. Saul realized the mercy David had shown him, and it was confirmed for him that David would eventually become king. He asked David to promise not to kill his family after David ascended to the throne, and David swore to Saul he would not end Saul's lineage when he came to power.

Discussion Questions

1. In Psalm 20, King David is headed out to battle. He knows that he and his soldiers will have to fight, but he acknowledges that he cannot trust in the weapons of war to win the victory ... he can only trust in God. How do we apply this to our own lives? What does it look like to be active in accomplishing God's mission while trusting only in God and not our methods/tools/effort along the way?
2. James writes that we are to be joyful when we face trials. What is your general attitude when you face challenges in this life? Do you think it's ok to complain about things that are difficult or things that get on your nerves? How has God helped you to have a more joyful response to things, or how do you think you still need to grow in this area?
3. Paul wrote to the Corinthian church to correct errors in their way of life. In 1 Cor. 3 he addressed the issue of division within the church. How did he correct this problem? How can we apply his solution to the church today?
4. God's message to Joshua was to be strong and courageous, because He would be with Israel's new leader in all he did. What are you facing right now that is challenging your trust in God? What will help you to be more courageous as you deal with this?
5. David refused to take revenge against Saul, even though Saul had attacked him repeatedly and even attempted to hunt him down. What was David's mindset in making this choice? What can you learn from his attitude and actions?
6. Overall, how has God used these passages to help you trust in Him?