



Sermon Discussion Guide

Keep Choosing Trust on the Path that is Life - Christian Lindbeck

Date: 3/13/22

Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key ideas/questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.
- Personalize the reality of Trials. Either in yourself or the world around us. (personal trials, concerns in the community, Ukraine/Russia, homelessness, etc)
- Listen to and reflect on (aloud or quietly, in words or in journals)
 - Giselle Furlan - "Don't Give Up Too Soon".
<https://youtu.be/t9wCOcqEbo>
 - Andrew Peterson's "Always Good" <https://youtu.be/u9qTxAUrFD4>

Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
- Re-read today's passage - James 1: 12-18 paying careful attention to James' combination of exhortation, challenge, and affection.
- Read other scripture regarding trials
 - 2 Cor 4:17 - talks about suffering in light of eternity
 - John 16:33 - in this world you will have trouble
- Compare and contrast the uses of the words "Birth" and "death" in this passage. What visuals is James trying to use? What emphasis is he giving?

Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
- Discuss how James' idea "Joy in the midst of trials" doesn't work as just a happy-go-lucky philosophy?



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- How does viewing the timeline of history in light of eternity alter our perspective on these temporary sufferings that God uses in our lives?
- What changes in the church, in our lives, in the world, if the sufferings we endure mean something greater than our own comfort? How can we as the church comfort, encourage, challenge, empathize, help others along the way.

Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.

Questions from the sermon:

- Will you accept the Father's invitation onto the pathways of life with Jesus?
- Will you release your grasp on a one-shot-at-success life, and entrust your days to Jesus and the glories of eternal life?

Additional questions

- If you feel comfortable, share something that God is convicting you of, that you are on the "wrong path." Christian shared that it doesn't need to be full of shame or complicated, just stop and get back on the right path. In what ways could your community, small group, family, or friends come alongside?
- If our lives are like a prologue to something much better, how does this change our view of trials?

Time of Prayer