

A 6-WEEK STUDY GUIDE





PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Each session will begin with an opportunity to help you connect with and get to know one another.

What is the longest road trip you have ever taken? Where did you go? What did you see on the way? What memories do you have from that trip?

Play the "Session Three: Paths of Righteousness" video lesson.

What stood out to you from the video?



In the following section, you will explore Bible passages and take part in discussion to apply insights from this session. If time is a concern, please choose just a few questions to discuss in your group.

Read Psalm 23:3

1. If you are willing, share about a time when you chose to do the right thing, even though it was difficult. How much did you have to struggle with the decision? What was the result of your decision?

2. In your experience, how does God lead us on paths of righteousness? How does He keep us on the right path? How does He turn us around when we stray? How have you personally been brought back to the path of righteousness? 3. In the video lesson, we learned that the purpose of a righteous life is to understand who God really is. How have you personally discovered what God is like by living like His Son, Jesus? How have you learned more about who God is by following Him?

Read Matthew 7:13-27

4. In Matthew 7:13-14, we see that the road to destruction is wide but the road to eternal life is narrow. Why is the road to destruction easier to walk than the road to eternal life? What are some examples of this that you have witnessed?

5. According to these verses, what kind of life can we expect if we follow the Lord's will? Why does a life of righteousness give us security and confidence?

6. What fruit and benefit have you personally found from living a life of righteousness? How has your life been enriched from following Christ? How has following the way of Jesus helped you live a more fulfilling life?

DEEPER STUDY QUESTIONS

Read Jonah 3:10-4:11

7. This story details the events after Jonah witnessed the Lord's mercy upon the city of Nineveh. Why was Jonah upset with the Lord's compassion toward the people of Nineveh? In what ways might the Lord's compassion upset us? How should we react when God's decisions upset us or confuse us? What should we do when this happens?

8. According to this story, what does the Lord value most in this world? What did Jonah value most in the story? What happens when what we value comes into conflict with what God values?

A MEDITATION FROM PSALM 23

Each week during this series, we will provide a simple prayer and meditation exercise that you can use either in a group or on your own. Prayer and meditation are excellent resources for developing a relationship of trust with the Father, as well as ensuring we keep our focus on discovering a good life following Him.

Begin this time by closing your eyes and spending a few moments in silence, focusing on nothing but the sound of your breath. When you find a moment of stillness, feel free to begin.

> Read the words of Psalm 23:3, "He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake." Repeat those words slowly in your mind. Spend a few moments meditating on the meaning of those words.



Imagine you are walking on a road together with the Lord. Pay attention to the horizon in the distance and the scenery around you. Focus on what the Lord is telling you. Listen to His voice as He shares a truth about Himself. Visualize this picture for a few minutes and consider what the Lord is revealing to you about Himself.

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As you return from that picture, consider this simple prayer to the Father: "You lead me on a good road." Speak this line to the Father over and over, and reflect upon its meaning for you.



In order to end this prayer meditation, thank the Lord for the time you spent together and for the direction He has given to your life. Thank the Lord for His wisdom and His guidance. Thank Him for how He has directed your steps.

JOURNAL

During each week for this series, we will provide a simple prompt and an opportunity to write and journal your thoughts. As we pursue a good life of following God, we will find a great benefit from putting our thoughts into words and thinking through how we can put our words into action. Do not overthink anything you write or try to find a "perfect" answer. Simply write what comes to mind.

Please spend at least 15 minutes writing about the question below:

What am I currently doing that helps me understand God's character on a richer and deeper level? How can I do more of that and less of what prevents me from knowing God?

PRAYER AND PRAISE

This is a place where you can write each other's prayer requests and make notes when God answers prayer. Pray for each other's requests out loud together as a group. If you're new to group prayer, you may pray silently.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports