

AWAKEN

WEEK OF January 7 – January 13 / GROUP TIME GUIDE

This guide is given to aid in the facilitation of leading your small group. It is only an aid for you to experience Christ together.

TIP of the Week: Facilitating Conversation - As a leader, your most important role is facilitating conversation among your people. Don't be afraid to let silence fill the air and force others to speak. It may be uncomfortable at first, but it gets people talking!

Prayer: Begin your time in group together by inviting God to be with you. Ask Him to change you as you seek Him and study His Word together. Ask him to use everyone in the group to encourage, challenge, and teach one another.

Bible Study: Ask someone in the group (or a few people) to read **James 4:8-10** out loud and then answer and discuss the following questions together:

1. Pastor Vance opened by talking about New Year's resolutions. He shared that 7 out of 10 people make New Year's resolutions every year. Which means there is a good chance some people in your group made some!
 - a. **What are some of your New Year's resolutions/goals for 2018?**
 - b. **What inspired you to make them?**
2. Pastor Vance mentioned that among the top resolutions made, none of them included pursuing the presence of God. This was important because as we learned this past week: everything changes in the presence of God.
 - a. **Have you ever experienced the presence of God? Can you describe what that experience was like?**
 - b. **How important is time spent pursuing God's presence in your life?**
3. This message sought to answer two simple questions. The first being, "What does it mean to draw near to God?" Out of this question Pastor Vance gave two components of drawing new to God: there is an awareness of God and there is a brokenness before God.
 - a. **What does it mean to draw near to God? How did Pastor Vance answer this question?**
 - b. **What does it look like to have an awareness of and brokenness before God? Do you remember experiencing a time like this?**
4. Finally, Pastor Vance asked, "What happens when I draw near to God?"
 - a. **What does God promises will happen when we draw near to God?**
 - b. **What does this mean practically?**

Practical Application: Now that we have talked about the importance of God's presence. How will you see to it that you have daily time of pursuing God's presence?