4 Walks: Assured

Be sure of your personal relationship with God

+Essentials

A

Group Discussion Flow

connect with needs

- Find out how they are doing.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: *"Relationships thrive on acceptance and assurance."*

  Then, surface experiences:

  "Let me tell you how I have experienced this."

  "Tell us how you have experienced this."
- Transition to the Bible by saying, *"This is also true in a relationship with God."*

hear what God says

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.

  Choices:

  Luke 15:11–24 (story)
  1 John 5:11–13

  Commentary:

  Luke 15:11–24 — This is the story of the rebellious son. The father represents God.

  The rebellious son represents how we can be toward God sometimes. The father apparently was looking down the road, hoping his son would return. He had compassion, ran to meet the son and celebrated his return. That picture gives us assurance that God loves and accepts us and wants to have close fellowship with us.

  1 John 5:11–13 — These verses provide simple clarity that receiving Christ assures us that we have eternal life (with God).
- Discuss each passage using the following questions, or the alternate questions below:

  What do you think this passage teaches us?

  What can we learn about God or our response to God?

  How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: "Relationships thrive on acceptance and assurance"?

apply that to life

- State the main lesson: "Be sure of your personal relationship with God." Have them write the ***lesson learned*** on their Mini-Journal card.
- Discuss:
  Why don't we always experience assurance in our personal relationship with God?

  What is one action you can take this week to begin to feel more assured?
- Have them write down their specific ***action to take.*** Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- It may be appropriate to walk through the *Would You Like to Know God Personally?* or *Connecting With God* booklet at this point.

tell someone they know

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after ***person to tell.*** Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

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notes and preparation checklist

pray

- ☐ Pray for wisdom.
- ☐ Pray for group members.

connect

- ☐ Think of a good personal example to share.
- ☐ Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear.**

notes and preparation checklist

hear

Alternate questions to ask:

☐ Luke 15:11–24

1. *What are some evidences of the father's love and acceptance of the rebellious son?*
2. *In what ways were the son's thoughts and actions reflective of the father's love and acceptance?*
3. *What are some things we can learn about relationships from this story?*

☐ 1 John 5:11–13

1. *What does this passage teach us about the source of eternal life?*
2. *What was the intended impact on the readers of this passage, and how does that help us in our relationship with God?*

notes and preparation checklist

apply

- ☐ Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply.**
- ☐ Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- ☐ Print Assured Mini Journal.

notes and preparation checklist

tell

- ☐ Encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- ☐ Look for group members who **tell** easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.