

Small Group Discussion Guide

Accepting God's Invitations — A New Life

August 16, 2026

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Read Psalm 35:1–3, Romans 6:4, and Hebrews 2:3–4 aloud.

We often want God to fight for us while resisting what He is asking us to do. But when we respond to Him with faith and obedience, we discover that God is doing something for us that we could never accomplish on our own. He invites us into a new life through Christ—not to burden us, but to give us His grace, power, freedom, and salvation. When we trust Him and respond to His invitations, He accomplishes supernatural things in our lives.

- **What does it look like when God fights for someone? What does it look like when someone is fighting against God? What can we do to be someone God is fighting *for* instead of *against*?**

I. Participating in the Kingdom of God

A. Jesus' Counsel

Read John 3:1–3 aloud.

Jesus taught that entering God's Kingdom requires being born again. It begins with responding to His invitation and allowing Him to transform our lives.

- **What are some invitations God gives us that we can be tempted to resist?**

1. Personal Choice

Read Romans 10:9–10 aloud.

Following Christ begins with a personal decision to believe in Him and acknowledge Him as Lord. No one else can make that choice for us.

2. Personal Change

Read Luke 3:7–8 and Matthew 18:1–3 aloud.

Following Christ requires personal change. Repentance means turning from our old ways and allowing God to transform us through humility, openness, and a willingness to grow.

3. Personal Accountability

Read Romans 1:20–21 aloud.

We are personally responsible for how we respond to God. We cannot blame our circumstances, culture, or others for our choices; each of us must decide how we will respond to God's invitation.

- **Why is taking personal responsibility for our choices—and being willing to change—necessary for participating in God's Kingdom? When have you experienced this type of change in your own life?**

B. Kingdom Benefits

Read 2 Peter 1:2–3 aloud.

Through knowing Christ, we receive grace, peace, forgiveness, strength, and everything necessary to live the new life He has called us to.

- **What “Kingdom benefits” have you experienced through your relationship with Christ?**

C. Options??

Read John 14:6, Ephesians 1:7, and 1 Peter 1:18–19 aloud.

Jesus is not presented as simply one option among many religious paths; Christianity declares that salvation and reconciliation with God come through Him alone.

- **How can we respectfully affirm Jesus as the only way to the Father, while still showing genuine love and respect toward people with different beliefs?**

II. A Salvation Story

A. Noah

Read Genesis 6:9–12 aloud.

Noah lived in a world filled with corruption and violence, yet he chose to walk with God. Noah could not save himself, but he could trust God and respond to His invitation.

- **What does the story of Noah teach you about responding to God when He provides a way of salvation?**

B. Jesus Christ

Read 1 Peter 3:20–22 aloud.

The story of Jesus reminds us that humanity cannot rescue itself from sin. Jesus is the Messiah who conquered sin and death and offers salvation to those who trust in Him.

C. Water Baptism — Jesus’ Example

Read Matthew 3:13–15 and 1 Peter 2:21 aloud.

- **What does baptism communicate about a believer’s decision to follow Jesus and live a new life?**

Prayer of Salvation

Lord Jesus Christ, I believe You are the Son of God and the only way to God. I believe that Jesus died on the cross for my sins. I am a sinner. I need a Savior. I repent of all my sins and ask You to forgive me and to come into my heart. I believe that You forgive me. I also forgive all those who have sinned against me. This day, I choose to make You the Lord of my life. In Jesus’ name, amen.