

August 9, 2020 | After God's Heart Group Discussion Questions

GROUP PREP

In preparation for group, read [1 Samuel 13:5-14](#) and [watch Emmanuel's weekend service message](#), then answer the following discussion questions.

SOCIAL TIME (10-15 minutes)

If this is your first meeting, use the ice breaker, [Meet My New BFF](#). It gives all your group members something to do as soon as they walk in the door, which removes a lot of the initial awkward standing around with nothing to do. To prepare, print one copy for each group member and have pens available.

CHECK-IN (15-20 minutes)

If this is your first meeting, there's no need to force an official Check-In. Use this time to review the [Group Agreement](#) and [Group Commitment Card](#).

If you met and discussed action steps last week, we asked the question, "how will you commit to being the right friend and taking steps to surround yourself with the right friends?"

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Everyone is seeking something – a friend, a spouse, a new job, more sleep, acceptance, adventure, relief, more money, etc. Seeking after something can provide hope, motivation and purpose. It can also provide heartache, pain, and discontentment, if we're seeking the wrong things. If we want to experience the abundant life, we must prioritize seeking after God's heart above all else.

1. Read [John 10:6-10](#). What comes to mind when you hear the words "abundant life?"

Many miss out on experiencing the abundant life, because they prioritize seeking after their kingdom instead of God's Kingdom.

Read [Matthew 13:44](#). Jesus felt like the Kingdom of Heaven was so amazing that we should give up everything to attain it. Why do you think Jesus was so passionate about living a life focused on the Kingdom of Heaven?

2. After reading [1 Samuel 13:5-14](#), we see that King Saul's disobedience disqualified him from continuing to lead Israel. God equated disobedience with not having the type of heart that seeks after God. How do we know whether or not we are being obedient?

In what ways would you say you lack obedience in seeking after God's will?

3. You will seek what you love most, and that will be the primary concern of your life. How do we determine if we love something more than God?

Read [Psalm 40:8](#) and [Matthew 6:10](#). Let's assume you want to live a life of obedience toward God. What do you seek that keeps you from living fully devoted to an obedient life?

4. What needs to change so God can take his rightful place as the top priority in your life?

What steps will you take this week to seek after God and live obediently?

ACTION STEP (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the following or create your own.

- **Daily time with God.** Determine the type of routine you'd like to have to spend time learning about God's will for your life. Here are some ways to do this:
 - o [Download the Emmanuel app](#) and read the One Year New Testament daily.
 - o [Download the YouVersion app](#) and find a devotion you can do daily.
 - o Purchase a [Jesus Calling](#) devotional and read it daily.
 - o Devote time daily to using the [Bible Project](#) and the video teaching offered.
 - **Pray.** Seek God's will by devoting time every morning and night to prayer. If able, get on your knees. A proper position can change the way you pray.
 - **Change your priorities.** Determine what you love more than God, then rearrange your schedule to ensure your other priorities will not push God out of His rightful place in your life.
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PRAYER (5-10 minutes)

Give everyone in your group an index card. Ask them to write their name and action step on one side and a prayer request on the other. When finished, have everyone pass their cards to the left. Everyone in the group now has someone to connect with throughout the coming week for three reasons:

- 1) To build the relationship
- 2) To encourage to accomplish their action step
- 3) To pray for in a specific way

Ask them to place the index card on their night stand or another place that would allow them to see it and use it every day.

GROUP SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

To determine how your group can serve together in the surrounding community, email Breanne Schafer, Emmanuel's Outreach Coordinator, at bschafer@eclife.org.

FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW FOR THIS UPCOMING WEEK'S ACTION STEPS.

My action step is _____.

This coming week, I will encourage _____ to complete their action step.

Their action step is _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I will pray for the group's following prayer requests:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____