

# GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

## SEATS AT THE DINNER TABLE: Psalm 128 & The Godly Home

### SERIES THEME//

In this series, we'll examine the Biblical vision for family and the godly home as we take an expositional walk through Psalm 128, looking at each of the people seated around the family dinner table.

## SERMON; GUESTS AT THE TABLE | PSALM 128:5

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018

### SERMON THEME//

Psalm 128 speaks of the godly home, but it does not exclude the outside world. The people of the godly home see the "prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life." Psalm 128, a song of ascents [songs sung on the pilgrim's climb (ascent) to Jerusalem], shows how the godly home is intimately tied to the community within which it resides. This sermon will look at the family through the lens of evangelism and outreach. What are the ways we are to be light in our community, what are the family boundaries we need to have, and how can we have guests at our table for the Kingdom cause?

### LEADER//

Acknowledge up front some ground rules. 1) Give space for everyone to share and interact. 2) Keep an atmosphere where everyone is comfortable to share not just their answers, but their lives and faith. 3) Challenge everyone to keep discussion away from the quality of the sermon and focus on the content, particularly as it relates to what God would have us do in our lives with it.

### OPENING UP//

*Start with prayer*

*Start the discussion*

1. How have you been challenged during this sermon series?
2. Who are some of the people who are closest to you (relationally) who are far from God?
3. Who are some of the people who are closest to you (residentially) who are far from God?
4. When was the last time you had an unbeliever in your home and shared the gospel with him/her?

### DIGGING DEEPER//

- o Begin by reading this passage out loud.



## PSALM 128 (ESV)

*A Song of Ascents.*

**128** Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord,  
who walks in his ways!

<sup>2</sup>You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands;  
you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.

<sup>3</sup>Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
within your house;  
your children will be like olive shoots  
around your table.

<sup>4</sup>Behold, thus shall the man be blessed  
who fears the Lord.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord bless you from Zion!  
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem  
all the days of your life!

<sup>6</sup>May you see your children's children!  
Peace be upon Israel!

- o Take a moment and reread verse five.

### SERMON DISCUSSION VIDEO//

- o As you watch the sermon discussion video, take note of what you found intriguing, insightful, and challenging as you consider how to take the *Word preached* and make it the *Word lived*.

### DISCUSS THE SERMON//

#### LEADER//

While a fair amount of processing is necessary and helpful, remember that the point of this discussion is to take the *Word preached* and consider how to make it the *Word lived*. Have a large amount of time be spent on taking God's Word and applying it to our lives.

**IMPORTANT TIP:** Take the questions from "What do you think about this?" to "How does that play out in your day-to-day life?"



- o Were there any of Pastor Ryan's thoughts from this discussion video that stuck out to you or struck a chord with you?
- o The big challenge in this sermon is the idea that as Christians who have the truth and are called to share the love of Christ, we are supposed to be the ones sharing this love and truth with the world, and one way we do this is by opening up our homes and our dinner tables to guests. Do you agree with this sentiment?
- o The first three points, for the sermon were:
  - Guests DISRUPT our PERFECT HOMES
  - Guests INTERRUPT our BUSY SCHEDULES
  - Guests INVADE our PERSONAL SPACE
  1. Which of these to you find to be most true and/or most challenging?
- o Pastor Ryan ended the sermon by saying that guests bless our broken lives. How have you personally experienced the truth of this statement?
- o If it's true that how we treat guests is how we would treat Jesus...how do you score?
- o In the video, Ethan asked Pastor Ryan how families light a spark or get a passion to have a community vision. What would you add to Pastor Ryan's answer?
- o What are the biggest factors or obstacles that keep you from opening up your home and inviting guests to the dinner table?
- o How can this group hold each other accountable (or work together) to have community vision?

## **CLOSE IN PRAYER//**

### **LEADER//**

As you close in prayer, take some time to receive prayer requests from your group. Try to gather a number of these.

Then take the time to pray over two specific areas (and to facilitate a deeper sense of community, encourage everyone to pray.)

1. First, your time of prayer should be a time of lifting up each other's needs and prayer requests to the Lord.
2. Second, your growth group should pray to thank God for his Word and ask for his help as you seek to be *doers* of the Word and not hearers only.

