

WEST RIDGE GROUPS

Group Member Discussion Guide

Week of April 27, 2025

CHECK-IN (~20 minutes)

How was your week? What was the high part of your week? What was the low part of your week? What can we celebrate together?

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week, Pastor Brian continued our *Kingdom Upside Down* message series. In a world that often feels dark and divided, Jesus reminds us in Mark 4 that His Kingdom is advancing powerfully, even when it appears hidden. We are called to shine His light boldly, trust the unseen power of the Gospel seed, and believe that even small beginnings can produce massive, unstoppable growth. The Kingdom of God does not depend on human brilliance but on God's sovereign power working through faithful, often ordinary people. Our role is to say "yes" to God's opportunities, trusting that every act of obedience is part of His unstoppable Kingdom plan.

GROUP DISCUSSION (~50 minutes)

1. Thinking back to the message this week, was there anything that challenged you personally? Share your thoughts with the group.

2. *Read Matthew 5:14-16*

How are you currently shining the light of Christ in the places God has placed you? Are you being intentional with where God has uniquely placed you — where you live, work, and play?

3. *Read Mark 4:26-27*

Why is it encouraging to know that the growth of God's Kingdom does not depend on our strength or ability?

4. *Read Galatians 6:9*

Have you ever felt discouraged when the "seeds" you sowed didn't seem to grow? How did Pastor Brian's message encourage you to keep sowing?

5. *Read 1 Corinthians 1:27-29*

In what ways is God calling you right now to say “yes” to opportunities to advance His Kingdom, even if you feel unqualified?

WRAP-UP (~10 minutes)

It is important to be growing in our relationship with Jesus and one another - what is one next step you can take this week to grow? Share with the group and commit to holding one another accountable.

What does it look like to hold each other accountable? It can be as simple as a text or phone call during the week. Hebrews 10:25 encourages us to meet regularly and to encourage one another on a regular basis.

Example: “Hey ____, you indicated in group this week that you were struggling at work with being light in a dark place. You said that your next step was to start a conversation with someone at work this week around the topic of faith. How did that go?”

PERSONAL NOTES

This week, my next step is:

This week I am going to check in on (name):

This week, my Bible reading will be (e.g. Philippians chapters 1-4):