



WEEKLY GROUP GATHERINGS

WELCOME: (worship or icebreaker) Depending on the personalities, relationships, or the amount of time you have, it may be appropriate on different weeks to begin with a worship song, or begin with a “get-to-know-you” question that helps people connect in relationships and focus.

FACILITATE DISCUSSION: The leader’s job isn’t to do the talking. The leader’s job is to ask the right questions that help people to understand what they are learning and how to apply it.

Our desire is that each person feels protected and free to contribute to the conversation. Sharing our journey with others, and listening to others share their journey, is an important part of growing and sharpening each other in the faith. We encourage each person to contribute to the conversation, even if it feels slightly uncomfortable, and share to their perspective and their experiences in the weekly discussion time. We want to hear from everyone!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ARE PROVIDED: There are discussion questions provided at the end of each chapter that help the participant apply what they are learning. The group leader can use these as a natural framework for discussion. The leader should feel free to discern where people are at in their learning process and what the Holy Spirit may want to focus on to help them grow. That discernment may result in prayer and ministry, or questions and conversations that were unplanned.

PRAYER AND MINISTRY: Each week throughout the discussion time, there will also be opportunities to pray for one another and to minister to any needs people may have. That is a part of helping each other heal and grow and practice their faith. Take initiative as you see opportunities arise. Prayer may happen in the middle of a conversation, or at the end of the discussion time, or before or after the official meeting time with specific individuals in the group. Be sensitive of the needs of your group in this area, and remember individual prayer is an important part of preparing your participants for the conference.

WEEKS 1, 5, 10: These three weeks are formatted differently. When you gather together, you’ll watch a video as a group. That video (from Church of the Highlands) gives direction to the next several weeks of study. If you have additional time during these weeks you can participate in discussion and prayer.

Video Link here: www.petra.church/freedom