



Discussion Prompts

The Discussion Prompts are provided to dig deeper into a sermon with the respective title mentioned on the right side of this guide (you can find the sermons at www.manheimbic.org/sermon).

Connect

Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, fellowship. Just arrive after a long week of all kind of things. - Ask: Who are you personally?

Care

Carry each others burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Cry together. Support each other. Pray together. - Ask: How are you doing?

Challenge

Dive into God's word to learn from each others insight. Encourage & challenge each other to a godly life. - Ask: What is God teaching us today?

Study Guide:

Last Sunday we were being challenged by some pretty amazing stories and by these verse from Isaiah 58:6-7:

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen to **loose the chains** of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to **set the oppressed free** and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

Looking back on the sermon and looking at this verse, what kind of chains do people around you seem to be bound with? Anxiety? Fear? Loss? Or is it Pride? Search for significance? Is it something physical, like drugs, alcohol, sickness or financial need?

Who do you think are the weak and oppressed in your community? Would you say that you as a person or group know about the challenges and struggles in your community?

=> Write down the names of one or two people that come to mind when you think about the question above. Don't continue until you really have specific names.

Now, in the next step think about this simple question:

"What would that person's life look like if Jesus would step in? If God's presence, power and teaching would fully become a reality in that person?"

Don't dismiss this as a standardized "Jesus is the answer, what's the question" type of thing. With everything that you know about God and His teachings, if everything became true, what could that person's life look like, ideally and practically? What kind of relief is there for the marginalized in your community, for example the immigrants?

If you are studying this with your small group, share with each other any possible answer to this questions. Make one person the secretary who writes down the different suggestions.

Now, what are you going to do about what you just learned about God and that person? Are you stepping out of your comfort zone and become an agent of healing? What would be something practical that you can do to bring God's presence into that persons life? What are your intended next one or two steps?

Clarify

Know what's to do next, with the studies text, within the group, and in general. Have a mission for the week. - Ask: How do we apply what we have learned?

Celebrate

Celebrate life's success and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to *brag* about God. - Ask: What has God done in our life that deserves praise?

MISSION: Losing the chains

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42)

