

Group Meeting

Welcome!

Welcome to Session 2 of *Believe*. If there are any new members in your group, take a moment to introduce yourselves to each other. Then spend a couple of minutes sharing insights or questions about this session's personal study. Now start the video!

VIDEO TEACHING NOTES

As you watch the video segment for Session 2, use the following outline to record some of the main points. (The answer key is found at the end of the session.)

- Key Question: Does God _____ about me?
- "The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He _____ me lie down in green pastures, he _____ me beside quiet waters, he _____ my soul. He _____ me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are _____ me; your rod and your staff, they _____ me. You _____ a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You _____ my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever." (Psalm 23)
- Key Idea: I believe God is _____ in and _____ about my daily life.
- (Key Application) Be _____: God's ways are higher than my ways.
- (Key Application) Don't _____: God, who controls nature and history, cares about me.
- (Key Application) Be _____: God is working out his good plan for my life.

GETTING STARTED

Begin your discussion by reciting the Key Verse and Key Idea together as a group. On your first attempt, use your notes if you need help. On your second attempt, try to state them completely from memory.

KEY VERSE: "I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:1–2)



KEY IDEA: I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

GROUP DISCUSSION

As a group, discuss your thoughts and feelings about the following declarations. Which statements are easy to declare with certainty? Which are more challenging, and why?

- I believe God has a purpose for my life.
- I believe pain and suffering can often bring me closer to God.
- I believe God is actively involved in my life.
- I believe God enables me to do things I could not or would not otherwise do.

Based on your group's dynamics and spiritual maturity, choose the 2–3 questions that will lead to the best discussion about this week's Key Idea.

1. Have you ever asked yourself, "Does God care about me?" If so, what experience or thought helped formulate your answer?
2. Describe the specific ways you experience God in your daily life.
3. What activities or disciplines heighten your awareness of God's activity in your life?

Read Psalm 23 (see the section "God Is Good" in Believe) and choose 1–2 questions that will lead to the greatest discussion in your group.

1. Psalm 23 describes God as a good shepherd who leads, guides, refreshes, comforts, prepares, and anoints his sheep. Which action best describes your interactions with him?

2. How does freedom from worry demonstrate confidence in God's ability to provide and care for us?

3. Why is it challenging to trust that God's ways are higher than our ways? How can we overcome these obstacles?

4. What thoughts and emotions come to mind when you think about the fact that God has a good plan for your life?

CASE STUDY

Use the following case study as a model for a real-life situation where you might put this week's Key Idea into practice.

Jill has been part of a church community for as long as she can remember. Secretly, she has struggled with doubts about God's will for her life. In a moment of vulnerability, she confesses that she fears she will never get married or have a family of her own. Her questions can be summed up this way:

1. How can I be certain that God's will for me is good?
2. Why would the God of the universe care about the details of my life?

Using the Key Applications from this session, what could you say or do to help Jill find the answers to her questions? (If needed, refer to your video notes for a reminder of this session's Key Applications.)

CLOSING PRAYER

Close your time together with prayer. Share your prayer requests with one another. Ask God to help you put this week's Key Idea into practice.

JOURNAL

If your church is doing the *Believe* church-wide campaign, bring this study guide with you to church and use the following space to take notes from the pastor's or teacher's message. If your church provides an outline, consider keeping it with this guide so you will have all of your notes and thoughts from your *Believe* journey in one place.

VIDEO NOTES ANSWER KEY

care / makes, leads, refreshes, guides, with, comfort, prepare, anoint / involved, cares
mindful / worry / excited