



Sermon-Based Study Guide | Menlo.Church

This guide is designed to guide a group discussion around the weekend sermon. You can also use this as an individual, but we highly recommend finding a friend and inviting them to discuss with you. Menlo Church has Life Groups meeting in-person and online using these guides. We'd love to help you find a group: [Click here for our group finder.](#)

What you will find in this guide:

A discussion guide for groups and individuals. If you are using this as an individual be sure to engage with each question in a journal or simply in your mind as you prayerfully consider what you heard in the sermon and seek to discover what God is inviting you to know and do.

Sermon-Based Discussion Guide for Groups and Individuals

March 5, 2023 – Phil EuBank

Last Words – Paradise

Every group is different; please choose the questions that relate best to your group, and don't feel like you must get to every question.

Connect

- Phil talked about being lied to about Chuck E Cheese being better than Disneyland. Was there something your family told you as a child that you eventually found out was not true? (For example, maybe you were told your dog went to live on a "farm")
- Going to Chuck E Cheese or Disneyland can be a fun memory that we are nostalgic about as an adult. What is a favorite place that you went to as a child?

Engage

Read Luke 23:39-43

- What do you notice about each of the other men?
- What do you notice about Jesus in these verses?
- What does Jesus promise?

Apply

- Phil talked about how the first man joined in with the mocking to deflect from his own guilt and pain. How do we deflect with our words or actions that leads to hurt for others?
- When you have a need and you go to prayer, what is your heart posture underneath? How we think of God's posture to us deeply impacts this prayer, so what would it look like to take our needs in prayer when we realize the nature of God is love to us?

- “When we deny our pain, losses, and feelings year after year, we become less and less human. We transform slowly into empty shells with smiley faces painted on them. Sad to say, that is the fruit of much of our discipleship in our churches. But when I began to allow myself to feel a wider range of emotions, including sadness, depression, fear, and anger, a revolution in my spirituality was unleashed.” – Pete Scazzero

Jesus meets us in our pain, losses, and feelings. In your path of discipleship have you been able to be honest with your pain and emotions? Have you suppressed those parts of you? What would it look like to bring healing into those spaces?

*If you are struggling and looking for help, our staff would love to guide you to resources for grief, counseling, support groups, or spiritual direction. You can find resources on our webpage or reach out to your campus staff.

Prayer

Spend time sharing in your prayer needs together and praying for each person that shares. As each of you share, commit to praying for each other during the week.

Going Deeper

Lent Resources:

Check out our Lent resources at the link below. This includes a digital version of our devotional guide and a new season of Menlo Meditations.

<https://menlo.church/last-words>

Menlo Midweek Podcast:

Tune in every Wednesday for a conversation with the previous week’s speaker. It’s a deeper dive into the message and an engaging time to learn, reflect, grow—and have fun.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/menlo-church-sermon-podcast/id129950807>