



Scriptural Support
and Discussion
Booklet

Real Connection

Scriptural Support and Discussion Guide

This booklet is designed to be used as a tool to augment the Global Priority **RoundTables™** when you are in a Christian environment. While the Global Priority values themselves are designed to be shared in any arena, this booklet includes scriptural content to provide deeper spiritual teaching and prompt discussion among believers. These scripture studies are not exhaustive, but they are meant to encourage the believer to pursue an understanding of God's ways for living out the Christian life through the revelation of His Word.

Directions for group use:

If time permits, the **RoundTable™** facilitator will ask participants to read and discuss from this booklet once the Global Priority value for the week has been completed.

1. The facilitator will read the *Main Idea*. Underline key insights that are important to you.
2. Everyone takes turns reading a verse. Underline verses that capture your attention or hold particular meaning for you.
3. The facilitator chooses one or two of the discussion questions for the table to discuss.
4. Each person takes one minute to give their thoughts on the discussion question.
5. Additional space provided can be used to journal thoughts or to write down prayer requests from group members.
6. Review the booklet during the week as you work on your Action Step from the **RoundTable™**.

Directions for personal use:

If time does not allow for additional discussion once the **RoundTable™** value is complete, these booklets can also be used for participants' personal devotional time during the week in order to reinforce and give additional life to the **RoundTable™** value.

1. Read the *Main Idea* and underline key insights that are most important to you.
2. Read through the scriptures and underline verses that capture your attention or hold particular meaning for you.
3. Read through the discussion questions and journal your answers.
4. Write out a prayer of how you are asking the Lord to help you implement the value this week as you work on your Action Step from the **RoundTable™**.

To get more information on
Global Priority Solutions **RoundTable™** values
or to order the Global Priority Solutions **RoundTable™**
module workbooks, go to www.globalpriority.org

*All scriptures taken from the following versions of the Bible as indicated: The Message (MSG), New International Version (NIV), The Living Bible (TLB), New Living Translation (NLT), English Standard Version (ESV), The Amplified Bible (AMP), The Passion Translation (TPT)

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The Value of CONNECTION

MAIN IDEA: We were created for connection! In a world where we can continually stay connected electronically, many are lonelier than ever. The Bible illustrates how to connect with both God and people. Connection goes deeper than a point of contact, penetrating social barriers to reach emotional and spiritual places where trust and relationship are built. The connections we make influence who we become. There are many illustrations in God’s Word of how we are connected to God and to each other. For instance, we are referred to as branches connected to the Vine (Jesus), also like a building, like a body and like a family.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES:

- **Genesis 2:18 (NIV)** – The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”
- **Romans 23:5 (TPT)** – And so it is in the body of Christ. For though we are many, we’ve all been mingled into one body in Christ. This means we are all vitally joined to one another, with each contributing to the others.
- **Proverbs 13:20 (MSG)** – Become wise by walking with the wise; hang out with fools and watch your life fall to pieces.
- **Psalms 51: 10-13 (TPT)** – Create a new, clean heart within me. Fill me with pure thoughts and holy desires, ready to please you. May you never reject me! May you never take from me your sacred Spirit! Let my passion for life be restored, tasting joy in every breakthrough you bring to me. Hold me close to you with a willing spirit that obeys whatever you say. Then I can show to other guilty ones how loving and merciful you are. They will find their way back home to you, knowing that you will forgive them.
- **Revelation 3:20 (TPT)** – Behold, I’m standing at the door, knocking. If your heart is open to hear my voice and you open the door within, I will come in to you and feast with you, and you will feast with me.
- **Ephesians 2:22 (MSG)** – You’re no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He’s using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building.
- **John 15:5 (TPT)** – “I am the sprouting vine and you’re my branches. As you live in union with me as your source, fruitfulness will stream from within you—but when you live separated from me you are powerless.
- **Galatians 5:22-23 (AMP)** – But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is love [unselfish concern for others], joy, [inner] peace, patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Who is someone that you connect with on a deeper level emotionally or spiritually and how did you achieve that connection?
2. What are the fears or barriers that keep you from connecting?
3. In what way have you felt disconnected from God and how did you restore a feeling of connection? How has connecting with God helped you to connect with others?
4. What fruit of the spirit do you feel has the most growth in your life and what fruit are you looking to grow more? (Gal. 5:22)

NOTES:

The Value of LISTENING

MAIN IDEA: Listening is giving thoughtful attention to what we hear. The word “listen” is used in 412 verses in the NIV Bible. We are encouraged to listen before we speak, to listen to wise counsel, to listen to the gospel of Christ and to listen to the Holy Spirit. Listening is a key to learning, growing in understanding, building strong relationships and developing our faith.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES:

- **Proverbs 1:5 (NIV)** - Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance.
- **Proverbs 18:13 (MSG)** - Answering before listening is both stupid and rude.
- **James 1:19 (AMP)** - Understand [this], my beloved brethren. Let every man be quick to hear [a ready listener], slow to speak, slow to take offense and to get angry.
- **Proverbs 12:15 (TLB)** - A fool thinks he needs no advice, but a wise man listens to others.
- **Proverbs 19:27 (MSG)** - If you quit listening, dear child, and strike off on your own, you'll soon be out of your depth.
- **Proverbs 27:17 (NIV)** - As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.
- **Romans 10:17 (AMP)** - So faith comes by hearing [what is told], and what is heard comes by the preaching [of the message that came from the lips] of Christ (the Messiah Himself).
- **Luke 8:21 (NIV)** - He (Jesus) replied, “My mother and brothers are those who hear God’s word and put it into practice.”
- **Revelation 3:22 (AMP)** - He who is able to hear, let him listen to and heed what the [Holy] Spirit says to the assemblies (churches).

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What do you think is valuable about a fully engaged and present listener?
2. Which do you struggle with most: distractions, pre-judging or thinking about what you want to say next? Why do you think that is?
3. When have you found it difficult to listen to wise counsel? When have you benefitted from wise counsel?
4. Can you recall a time in your life when you were sure that God had spoken to you? Explain what that was like and how it built your faith.

NOTES:

The Value of RESTRAINT

MAIN IDEA: When we show restraint, we make a conscious effort to control our emotions and behavior. Often, when we say angry or thoughtless words, allow rumors or gossip to be discussed, or choose sinful actions, it is because we follow our impulses rather than submitting to God and asking His Spirit to instruct and strengthen us. How much could we all benefit by taking a minute to seek God's wisdom before we choose to speak or behave in a manner that we will regret later? By seeking Him first, we are asking the Lord to influence and shape our thoughts, our words and their outcome. Our words and actions are not just an expression of who we are; they are also an expression of who our God is. We need to choose them carefully.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES:

- **Proverbs 13:3 (TLB)** - Self-control means controlling the tongue! A quick retort can ruin everything.
- **1 Corinthians 9:27 (ESV)** - But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.
- **Romans 8:17-18 (MSG)** - But I need something more! For if I know the law but still can't keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help!
- **Psalms 141:3 (MSG)** - Post a guard at my mouth, GOD, set a watch at the door of my lips.
- **Proverbs 25:9-10 (NLT)** - When arguing with your neighbor, don't betray another person's secret. Others may accuse you of gossip, and you will never regain your good reputation.
- **Matthew 5:39 (ERV)** - "But I tell you, don't fight back against someone who wants to do harm to you. If they hit you on the right cheek, let them hit the other cheek too..."
- **Proverbs 18:20-21 (NLT)** - Wise words satisfy like a good meal; the right words bring satisfaction. The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Which aspect of restraint presents the biggest challenge to you: stopping yourself before you say hurtful things, taking part in gossip, exaggeration or bragging?
2. Are there certain situations or pressures that make it harder for you to exhibit self-restraint?
3. What is the “grief” that occurs when you fail to watch your words or hold your tongue (Proverbs 21:23)?
4. Do you recall a time when you received “life” from someone because of the words they shared with you (Proverbs 18:21)?

NOTES:

The Value of SELF-ESTEEM

MAIN IDEA: Self-Esteem is made up of the thoughts and feelings we have about ourselves. As Christ followers our view of ourselves, our identity, should come from God and how He views us. Focusing on God and meditating on His purposes and His great love for us lifts our understanding to greater heights. The life we live here on earth is filled with the tribulations and triumphs of the journey in which our lives intersect with those around us. Finding our identity in Christ allows us to rejoice in living out who He has created us to be, while giving all we have for the kingdom of God.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES:

- **Genesis 1:27 (NKJV)** - So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- **Psalms 8:4-6 (TLB)** - I cannot understand how you can bother with mere puny man, to pay any attention to him! And yet you have made him only a little lower than the angels and placed a crown of glory and honor upon his head. You have put him in charge of everything you made; everything is put under his authority...
- **Romans 12:3 (MSG)** - I'm speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me, and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you. Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it's important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him.
- **1 Peter 2:9 (AMP)** - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a [special] people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies [the wonderful deeds and virtues and perfections] of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.
- **1 John 3:1 (MSG)** - What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God! That's who we really are. But that's also why the world doesn't recognize us or take us seriously, because it has no idea who he is or what he's up to.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What is a character quality of God that you would like people to see reflected in your life?
2. How do you lift your vision above life's circumstances or emotions when you feel down?
3. Reflect on the fact that Psalm 8 says we are "Mere puny man" and Ephesians 2 that says we are "seated with Him in heavenly places".
4. Why do you think the only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us? (Rom. 12)

NOTES:

The Value of HOPE

MAIN IDEA: Hope for the believer is waiting with expectancy for the promises that God has assured us. These promises are expressed throughout the scriptures. They include peace, a light burden, the power of the Holy Spirit, the supply of our needs, salvation, eternal life, and the working together of all things “for the good of those who love him” (Rom. 8:28) to name a few. By keeping ourselves filled with God’s word and His promises, we keep hope alive in our hearts and as we live it out, we bring hope to others as well. This affects not only this life but eternity as well.

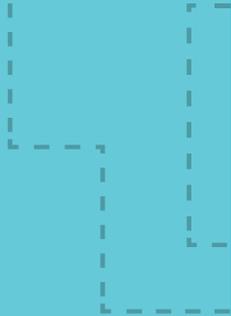
CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES:

- **Psalm 39:7 (AMP)** - And now, Lord, for what do I expectantly wait? My hope [my confident expectation] is in You.
- **Psalm 43:5 (NIV)** - Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.
- **Proverbs 13:12 (TLB)** - Hope deferred makes the heart sick; but when dreams come true at last, there is life and joy.
- **Romans 5:3-5 (AMP)** - And not only this, but [with joy] let us exult in our sufferings and rejoice in our hardships, knowing that hardship (distress, pressure, trouble) produces patient endurance; 4 and endurance, proven character (spiritual maturity); and proven character, hope and confident assurance [of eternal salvation]. 5 Such hope [in God’s promises] never disappoints us, because God’s love has been abundantly poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
- **Romans 15:4 (NIV)** - For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.
- **1 Corinthians 15:19 (AMP)** - If we who are [abiding] in Christ have hoped only in this life [and this is all there is], then we are of all people most miserable and to be pitied.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. How would you describe the difference between hoping for something good to happen and hope in the promises of God?
2. How does “hope deferred make the heart sick”? (Prov. 13:12)
3. What is a promise of God that you cling to in times of trouble?
4. How can we turn around a feeling of “hopelessness”?

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