



# ROOTED

## Week 4 Group Guide Where is God in the Midst of Suffering?

### Icebreaker

It's finally fall! So, what's your favorite season and why? Are you a pumpkin spice lover or hater? Do you have a favorite fall tradition?

### Overview of the Main Theme

This week, we will be looking at how God interacts with us, even in times of suffering and hardship. We will all experiences loss, sickness, seasons of difficulty, and heartbreak where we question how God is working in our lives.

This might be a difficult week of discussion for some in your group. Please be sensitive to one another as your share.

### Prayer

God, thank you for the people in this group and the time you have given us to come together. Thank you that you are present and working in our lives, even when we experience pain. Help us to keep our focus on you, God, and help us to trust you even when we don't understand. We love you. Amen.

### Story Sharing

Remember, if it is your turn to share, try to keep it to 5-7 minutes. Ask someone in your group to time you!

### Group Discussion Time

*Note: Every person in the group shares their learning experience. Others in the group can briefly share their experiences about the same thing. Just watch the time. No commenting on or correcting what others are learning.*

- Share **ONE** idea/devotional/question that spoke to you. Refer to the page in *Rooted*.
- Explain **WHY** this grabbed your attention. There is a reason God spoke to you through this idea or word.
- Share **WHAT** you think God wants to do in your life about that word.
- Share **HOW** you are already **RESPONDING**.

As a reminder, these are the questions that you considered in your response time during this week's devotionals. Each member can take a moment to share which question they would like to discuss as a group.

- All of us have gone through times of despair or feeling completely alone. In that time, what were your feelings about your situation and about God?
- What lessons learned from David's life can help you through these challenging times?
- Describe a time when you have felt helpless.
- Describe a time when, despite your circumstances, you have had hope from the Lord.
- Describe your feelings of "double-fisted faith." Is this idea a struggle for you? Or do you embrace it?

- When have you had to clench your fists and cling tightly to God's promises, not knowing the outcome of the situation?
- What would it take to completely surrender your life to God?
- What is a care in your life you need to give over to God right now?
- What challenges are you facing now that are helping transform your character to be more like Christ's?
- Where do you see God's hand working in your circumstances?

## Group Discernment

After the group sharing, discover how God has been speaking. Look for a common thread or a core theme that is being revealed through the study and conversation. You have been listening to one another and NOW, together, you listen to what Jesus is saying.

## Closing Prayer

God, thank you for the members of this group and their willingness to share this week. Thank you for our stories, and how you work through our circumstances. Help us to truly surrender to you, even when we are walking through dark seasons. Give us hope, even when we are struggling. We love you. Amen.

## Reminders for Next Week

1. *Rooted* chapter 5 is all about how there is an enemy. Please work through those five devotionals for next week. Next week, we will have a different sort of discussion time. Please pray for one another this week leading up to that discussion.
2. Who wants to be ready to share their story?
3. Is anyone going to bring a snack (if your group is doing that)?
4. Anything else?