



ROOTED

Week 5 Group Guide There Is An Enemy

Icebreaker

What is a really bad piece of advice you have been given? When did you finally realize it was bad advice? What did you do with that advice and what did that advice do to you?

Overview of the Main Theme

This week, we will be looking at the issue of strongholds. This language might be new to you. When we look at the world around us, we all know something has gone wrong. It is broken and bent away from God. Something has gone wrong inside of us. The Bible calls it the problem of sin. And, to make things worse, there is supernatural evil at work in the world known as the demonic.

This is the focus of *Rooted* Week 5. We are focusing on what Jesus has done about it and what we can do about it.

Prayer

God, thank you for the people in this group and the time you have given us to come together. Help us to be vulnerable with one another as we shed light on our struggles. Help us to encourage one another to become more like you. 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

In the ministry of Jesus, a very large part of the demonic had to do with what we might call “truth encounters.” The demonic works through lies, falsehood, error, and deceiving us about these things. In the culture around us, so many of these lies have become dominant. We also have our own personal experiences where we start to believe and live according to these lies.

At first they have a “foothold” in us. The longer we believe them and put them into practice, they become patterns, routines, habits, and addictions. They begin to dominate and control us.

So many of these have to do with pride—autonomy—self-sufficiency, sexuality, and power.

The *Rooted* workbook has a dozen categories where we get stuck, sometimes very seriously so, and where we need a lot of God’s grace, power, and work to get unstuck. In our group, we will name things for what they are. This process takes humility. We are confessing to one another and helping one another to turn and choose a better way. This is called repentance. We will share as openly, honestly, and appropriately as we can.

Confession might be something new for you. It can certainly sound pretty daunting! James 5:16 says, “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

You should be able to easily identify 2-3 of the “bigger” issues where you are stuck in wrong

thinking and unhealthy practices. This is what you will share with one another. As a group, you will take turns praying for grace, forgiveness, healing, and transformation.

Closing Prayer

As a group, spend time in silent prayer for yourself and others. Leave 5 minutes for this. If you are the designated leader of your group, go ahead and pray for your group. Pray for the needs that have been shared, and for God's power and healing to be evident in the lives of everyone in your group.

Reminders for Next Week

1. Next week, we will combine two chapters in our *Rooted* books. We will be learning about how we can make the most of our life. This is also when we will aim to do a group serving project together. If your group has not already made a plan to serve together, do that as soon as possible.
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?