



Detour- Week 1

HIGH SCHOOL AND ADULT GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**GROUP PREP**

In preparation for group, [watch Emmanuel's weekend service message](#), then answer the following discussion questions.

SOCIAL TIME (15-30 minutes)

Have an ice-breaker ready, eat a snack together, and/or go around the circle asking your group members to share any news since your last meeting, if your group is continuing from last semester. Be intentional in helping your group members get to know one another during this time and make it fun.

Ice-Breaker suggestion: As we experienced our first big winter storm this week in Indiana, ask your group if they could only live in one season what would it be? Why did they choose that season?

CHECK-IN TIME (15-30 minutes)

Talk about what you did last week to complete your action step.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (45-60 minutes)

We all know the feeling; you are traveling down a road and suddenly the road you were taking is under construction and you are forced to go a new way. The road is blocked, and you have to take a detour. Detours can come in many shapes and forms, but they all require us to move in a direction we never anticipated. You and I are on a road called 'life' and when God blocks our path and sends us through a detour, He is opening the door to build something new within us.

1. We all plan for our future. We plan to make a sports team, we plan the college we will attend, or the job or promotion we will get. We dream of how our marriage and family will grow, and we imagine the people who will grow alongside us in our friendships.

Tell the group about a time in the past when you or someone you know, had to take a detour in life. How was that detour handled?

2. Read [Romans 5:3-4](#). God allows detours in our life to build up character and make us more like Jesus. Think about your current/present season of life. How is this season of life detoured from what you imagined?

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3. In [Genesis 22:2](#), Abraham was asked to sacrifice his son; whose life God linked many promises to. God was asking Abraham to step out of his comfort zone in order to be stripped of the attachments he had to things other than God. This required Abraham to embrace discomfort and actively look for the opportunities to deepen his faith.

What is God currently trying to strip away in your life right now or what is He wanting to add more of? How would a shift in perspective to embrace where you are instead of where you thought you might be help you grow in faith?

4. Read [Ephesians 2:10](#). God created you purposefully to make an impact for His kingdom on earth, and detours are placed in our path to create something new in us and prepare us for those works.

Who do you currently have the opportunity to impact for the Kingdom because of a past or present detour?

5. C.S. Lewis wrote in his book, *Mere Christianity*, "You thought you were going to be made into a decent little cottage, but He [God] is building a Palace".

What God has in store for us is better than anything we could ever imagine but requires us to move in trust that God will bring clarity in the right time. What action do you need to take this week to look for opportunities to grow in faith and embrace the detour?

ACTION STEP (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the following or create your own. Consider finding an accountability partner within your group to walk alongside you this week.

- **Study:** Start a bible plan together as a group on the bible app. Consider one of these plans [Detour by Tony Evans](#) or [The Joseph Calling](#).
- **Invite:** Join in on the relentless pursuit and invite someone you've been given influence over to a service. Use the Invite tool at eclife.org/invite.
- **Practice Solitude:** Create space to be alone with God using the space to seek Him. New this spiritual discipline? Check out [this article on to practice solitude](#).
- **Journal:** Reflect specifically on where you currently have opportunities to embrace and seek opportunities for growth.
- **Memorize scripture:** Try one of the verses from this weekend's message.
- **Daily time with God-** Determine the type of routine you'd like to have that allows you to spend time learning about what pleases God. Here are some ways to do this:

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- [Download the Emmanuel app](#) and read the One Year New Testament daily.
- [Download the YouVersion app](#) and find a devotion you can do daily. You can even decide to do one as a group to encourage one another as you do the daily readings.
- If you recently placed your faith in Christ and texted SAVED to 65248, read the devotional provided in your starter kit.

PRAYER (5-10 minutes)

Ask your group to share two things

1. Prayer requests for themselves and the people in their lives.
2. Ask also for any reason to praise, it is great to come to God in thanksgiving for all He has done.

Keep note of the burdens in people's life and notice when God moves in those areas specifically. We believe God will see prayers become praise and it is an opportunity to increase our faith when we are in the position to bring that to light.

GROUP SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

To determine how your group can serve together in the surrounding community, email Breanne Schafer, Emmanuel's Associate Outreach Director, at bschafer@eclife.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 8 | Seymour Campus open house

February 13 | Begin to return 'Bins to Brim' donations back to campuses

February 28 | Impact Team Night

You can find more information on all of these events at eclife.org.