



## Detour- Week 4

**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: Famous People – As each person arrives, tape a 3X5 index card on his/her back with the name of a famous person. People circulate, asking questions that are only answerable with a 'yes' or 'no'. You can only ask each person one question at a time before you move on to the next person. The goal is to figure out who the famous person written on your back is.

**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 there is a road closed sign. The road is permanently closed, and you must find a completely new road to take. Detours can come in many shapes and forms, but they all require us to move in a direction we never anticipated to go.

1. A permanent detour is when a road you are going down closes forever. Pastor Danny mentioned that most people will experience 4-7 permanent detours in their lifetime. Share with the group what permanent detour you have experienced in the past or are experiencing right now. How has this detour made you feel? What are some things you did to fill the void of this road?
2. Read [Ruth 1:16-17](#). Ruth decided to stay with Naomi instead of going back to her homeland. She was able to be that committed, courageous and loyal because she 'accepted that the road was closed.' After experiencing a permanent detour, what makes it so difficult to do what Ruth did and accept a new reality?
3. Read [Ruth 2:2](#). A lot of times we get paralyzed by pain we experience from a permanent detour. Like Ruth, once we've accepted that the road is closed, we need to keep moving, taking one step at a time. What are some practical things you did or are doing after coming to a road 'closed sign' in your life?

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4. Read [Ruth 2:3](#). Because Ruth took the step of going to the field to get food for her and Naomi, she ended up in the field that belonged to Boaz, who would ultimately end up being her new husband. God blessed the world through this detour because their marriage many years down the line would lead to the birth of Jesus. When one road closes, another one will always eventually open. What does the 'new road' look like after your permanent detour? What could happen in your life and in the life of those around you if look for the new road?
  
5. What is your next step after encountering a permanent detour? Do you need to accept that the road is closed, keep moving, or look for the new road? What is one practical thing you can do this week to move forward?

**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.

- **Reflect:** If you've recently experienced a permanent detour, review the 5 steps of grief. What step are you experiencing and what can you do to move forward?
- **Encourage:** Write a card, send a text, or make a phone call to an individual who has gone through a permanent detour.
- **Meditate on scripture:** [Proverbs 3:5-6](#) This Scripture is a good reminder that no matter the pain we are facing, the Lord will show us what path to take.
- **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:
  - [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.



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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](mailto:bschafer@eclife.org).

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

February 28 | Impact Team Night

March 13 | VERB

March 16 | Night of Worship

*You can find more information on all of these events at [eclife.org](http://eclife.org).*