



Detour- Week 2

SMALL 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: Play a quick round of trivia! [Find questions here.](#)

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 traveling is under construction and you are forced to go a new way. You and I are on a road called life. Sometimes though, the road we planned to go on is blocked and we must take a detour. Detours can come in many shapes and forms, but they all require us to move in a direction we never anticipated to go. Sometimes we create the detours ourselves. Self-inflicted detours come from the sin we allow in our life, and it forces us off the main road.

1. Describe a time that you took a trip and had to take a detour. Was it a funny experience? A scary experience? Did you find your way back to the main road?
2. God establishes a 'main road' for us, a way of life that means obeying what he says and staying in his will. Self-inflicted detours are sin and when we continually indulge in sin, our souls become hardened. Read [Hebrews 3:13](#). The longer we stay outside of God's will, the more we lose the sensitivity to notice what sin is doing in our life.

Typically, how do you respond when you recognize you've strayed off the 'main road'? What does your response say about the current condition of your heart towards God?

3. Read [Romans 6:6-7](#). Because of Jesus we do not have to be bound by sin anymore. Pastor Cody explained it as the 'war of two wolves.' The one we feed will win. Every day we are faced with the choice to feed our sinful nature or our connection to Christ.



Detour- Week 2

Consider your daily habits. Think about your relationships, social media engagement, how you spend your free time, your money, or your eating/drinking habits. Which wolf are you feeding, your sinful nature or your connection to Christ?

4. C.J. Mahaney wrote in his book '*Humility*' that, "Humility is honestly assessing ourselves in light of God's holiness and our sinfulness." However, the truth is that our sinful choices don't only impact our own lives, but they also impact the people around us. Mahaney also wrote in his book, "Identify evidences of grace in others. This means actively looking for ways that God is at work in the lives of other people."

Tell the group about someone who showed you grace during a self-inflicted detour? How were you impacted by their grace? Do you currently have someone in your life who is traveling down the road of a self-inflicted detour? If so, how can you humble yourself to extend grace to them?

5. Will you go back to the main road? What specific action do you need to do this week to starve sin from your life and return to God's will?

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.

- **Read a book:** [Humility by C.J Mahaney](#) or [Winning the War in Your Mind by Craig Groeschel](#).
- **Practice Humility:** By intentionally noting when you are tempted to sin and turning into God's grace instead. At the end of the day, review and address any missed opportunities in your time with God.
- **Practice Remembrance:** Spend intentional time remembering the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross in Matthew 27. Journal about what His sacrifice means for you.
- **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:
 - [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.



Detour- Week 2

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 20| Return 'Bins to Brim' donations back to campuses

February 20 | Baptism Weekend

February 20| VERB

February| 24 1824

February 28| Impact Team Night

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