



MEETING AGENDA

ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

When you face problems and worries in your life, what helps you to pause and reflect deeply on the glory of God?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[There is no right answer, but this is an opportunity for people to share within their comfort level about steps they take to draw close to God when facing difficult circumstances.]

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Was there one idea that stood out to you from David's message in Romans 16:25-27?

What practices or habits do you use to work through problems, dissatisfaction, and worry?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Consider the always-available source of strength we have in our relationship with God and how we can rely on God's presence whenever we need it. Realize that in his strength, God knows our weakness and that self-reliance never works. He gives a perspective that establishes our "sure-footing" in him and even provides the courage we need to depend on him.]

INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

- 1. Read 1 John 2:3-6. How does obedience stem from our dependence on God, and how can it deepen our relationship with Him even further? What does an obedient life to Christ look like to you?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[By depending on God and not ourselves, He will give us the desire and strength to be obedient. Our obedience to God is a tool by which He sanctifies us, making us more like Christ.]

- 2. Read Isaiah 40:31. We often feel that we must be independent and self-reliant to be strong. How does this point us to God as the true source of strength?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Isaiah 40:31 says, "but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." Patience can be difficult to maintain. However, this verse clarifies that if we have patience, God will strengthen us. And, as we learn to wait, our faith is strengthened.]

- 3. David talked about how we gain strength through having the right perspective. What words or phrases from Romans 16:25-27 help to describe the perspective God wants us to have? How does this doxology glorify Jesus?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Discuss who God is, such as "the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ" and other ideas or questions from the group.]

- 4. Read 2 Corinthians 12:8-9. How does this passage compare to Romans 16:25-27? How can we experience God's strength during our weakness?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[In her article, "How to Experience God's Strength in Your Weakness," Christina Patterson writes that we must trust that God's grace is sufficient despite our difficulties that cause weakness. It is in our weakness that we experience God's strength the most. Jon Bloom writes, "God does not want us to be strong. God wants to be our strength."]

APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

[Hosts: don't feel pressure to cover all the questions below. Pick the one or two questions that might lead to the best conversation, but if discussion fades, include the others.]

- 1. While the conscious decision to pray takes more strength, it creates peace. In contrast, the tendency to worry comes naturally but creates panic. What kinds of situations or circumstances cause you to worry? How might you replace habits of worry with practices of prayer?**
- 2. God gives us courage and perspective so we can have a sure footing regardless of our situations. How can you be courageous through God in the midst of whatever difficult situation you are now facing?**

PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

*Father God, use our limited faith and your great love to shape our daily thoughts and actions to praise and glorify you. Make firm our understanding that bringing widespread glory to your name through eternity is the goal of your church and our lives. Help us always turn first to you and rely fully on your promises for the strength we need, the desire and courage for obedience, and the deep peace that follows. In Jesus' name, **Amen.***