



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

CONSISTENCY

Gene · Weekend of August 15 and 16, 2026

SCRIPTURES

JOHN 15:4-5 · DANIEL 6:10 · ZECHARIAH 4:10 · HEBREWS 10:24-25

THE MESSAGE

Outside of saying yes to Jesus, Gene said, the one quality that determines how much of your life actually changes is consistency. Jesus told us to remain in Him, and the picture He chose was a branch that never strains to produce grapes, it simply stays connected and the fruit shows up. Daniel is what that looks like across a lifetime.

With the law signed and the lions waiting, he went upstairs and prayed three times a day just as he had done before, because the crisis did not create his prayer life, his prayer life had been getting him ready for years. He closed with two practices for the rest of us, start small and plan for the miss, because you do not build consistency when the crisis comes, you build it long before it gets here.

BEFORE YOU START

Last week pointed people toward one decision, and this week asks about the small things they do every day, which is a harder conversation to keep concrete, so push for specifics. If someone says they want

to pray more, ask when, ask where, and ask what has stopped them before, because the answer to that last one is usually where the real conversation is.

Watch for shame, and expect it early.

The message named it directly: that shame does not just say you failed, it says because you failed you are a failure, so why even try. A group full of people who have quit the same habit six times will feel that in their chest the moment the topic comes up. **Your job is not to get anybody to commit to a new routine tonight, it is to make it safe to admit the ones they have already dropped.** Going first with something you are genuinely inconsistent about will do more for the room than anything else you say.

You are not going to get through all eight questions, and you are not supposed to. You choose which ones fit your group, and you choose the order you take them in. Spend your time where the conversation is actually alive rather than trying to cover everything.

ICEBREAKER

Gene spent a good while on the fact that Barbara squeezes the toothpaste tube from the middle with her fist instead of curling it neatly from the bottom, which he is fairly certain is a violation of Scripture. What is a small daily habit of yours that somebody who lives with you would say you do completely wrong?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Five here, and three more in Go Deeper. Take whichever ones fit your group, in whatever order you want. Nobody is grading you on covering all of them.

1

JOHN 15:4-5

Jesus says “remain in me,” and that word shows up ten times in the passage, which in Hebrew literature is the equivalent of underlining it. The branch does not wake up and try really hard to produce grapes, it just stays connected and the fruit comes. *Where have you been treating spiritual growth as something to work harder at rather than something to stay connected for?*

Some people at your table have been told their whole life that trying harder is the answer. Give them room to say that out loud before you move on.

2

DANIEL 6:10

The phrase worth circling in Daniel 6 is “just as he had done before.” Daniel did not start praying because a crisis came, he was already praying, and “his prayer life prepared him for the crisis.” Think about the last hard season you walked through. *What was already in place that carried you, and what do you wish had been?*

3

“The most dangerous thing about Daniel was not his courage, it was his routine.” His enemies had to go after the routine, because they understood it was the source of everything else in him. *If somebody studied your week the way they studied Daniel’s, what would they conclude you are building your life around?*

This one can sting, so name your own answer first and keep it honest rather than tidy.

4

ZECHARIAH 4:10

The first practice was to start small, because “abiding is usually built into the ordinary rhythms of life.” What marked Gene growing up was not the trips his parents took him on, it was that they prayed at every meal, read Scripture at breakfast, and let him watch them worship every week. *What is one small thing, small enough that you would actually do it every day, that you could start this week?*

5

The second practice was to plan for the miss, since “being consistent is not the same as being perfect.” If your aim is perfection, then when you mess up you will give up, so the rule is simple, do not miss twice. *Which habit have you abandoned entirely because you broke the streak? What would getting back on look like this week?*

Consistency is not never falling off the wagon, it is becoming really good at getting back on. If somebody names a habit here, ask them when they are restarting it before the conversation moves.

GO DEEPER

Three more, for groups that move quickly or want to push further. The first one is built for the people at your table who love to dig into the text itself.

GD1

JOHN 15:1-11

Read the whole passage rather than just the two verses that were on the screen, and pay attention to what surrounds the promise of fruit. The Father prunes the branches that are already bearing, which means the cutting is not punishment. There is a warning in verse 6 about branches that do not remain. And it ends in verse 11 with joy being the point of the whole thing. *Which part of that picture is hardest for you to accept, the pruning, the warning, or the joy?*

Worth knowing before somebody asks. The vine was a standing image for Israel in the Old Testament, and it usually showed up in passages about a vineyard that failed to produce, with Isaiah 5:1-7 being the clearest one. When Jesus calls himself the true vine, he is stepping into that history on purpose.

GD2

HEBREWS 10:24-25

This was the last passage read from the stage, that we should not give up meeting together “as some are in the habit of doing.” Notice the writer treats both the showing up and the staying away as habits, and notice the stated reason is spurring one another toward love and good deeds. *What does that suggest about what your presence in this group does for everyone else, not just for you?*

GD3

The weekend ended with the whole church on its feet declaring it out loud: “with God’s help and the power of the Holy Spirit I will abide in Jesus with consistency.” *Underneath the declaration was one question, what is the one thing God is asking me to do consistently? Say your answer out loud to the group, and name who is going to ask you about it before we meet again.*

This is the whole night in one question. If you only get here, the group did fine. Write down what people say so you can follow up with them during the week.

CLOSE YOUR GROUP IN PRAYER

Every campus stood and declared this together on the weekend: ***“I declare, with God’s help and the power of the Holy Spirit, I will abide in Jesus with consistency. Transformation happens when I do consistently what others do occasionally.”***

Pray specifically rather than generally. Ask each person to name the one rhythm they are picking back up, and pray over that thing by name. If somebody in the room is carrying shame about how many times they have quit, pray that off them before they leave.