

# Leader Guide

## How to Undermine Your Faith

Winter 2025 | Week 1

Message Date 1/12/2025

### THE GOAL

Hello, Life Group Leaders! Welcome back to the Life Group Winter Quarter 2025. This week we are finishing up the series “How to Undermine Your Faith”. Pastor Tim shared a phenomenal message wrapping up 2 Peter, and we will be revisiting some ideas from my message the previous week. The main goal of this week will be to dive into two ideas. The first one is self-examination. What is the Bible saying about it? How do we do it? The second is about how we pursue intimacy with God. We will connect these two things and unpack them together.

### MY STORY

- 1) What person was your childhood hero, and why?
- 2) What is one thing you're an expert at? Meaning if I asked you to explain something to me for at least 15-20 minutes, you could do it in great detail.

### QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

### DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

4) What is intimacy? Not just with God, but with other people. What does it mean? “Intimacy is the sense of closeness and connection between people, often involving emotional, physical, or intellectual bonds. It typically requires trust, vulnerability, and mutual understanding.” With God it's about closeness to Him in my thoughts, feelings and actions. Sometimes the world defines intimacy only as the physical aspect but there is so much more to it.

#### 1 John 1:5-10 CSB

<sup>5</sup> This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light, and there is absolutely no darkness in him. <sup>6</sup> If we say, “We have fellowship with him,” and yet we walk in darkness, we are lying and are not practicing the truth. <sup>7</sup> If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup> If we say, “We have no sin,” we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous

to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say, “We have not sinned,” we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.<sup>i</sup>

- 5) What does it mean that “God is light, and there is absolutely no darkness in him”? How does this shape your understanding of intimacy with God?

It highlights God’s purity, holiness, and truth. There is no sin, deceit, or imperfection in Him. Intimacy with God requires us to align with His nature, walking in truth and holiness. We are to walk in the light.

- 6) What does it look like for you to walk in the light, and how does it impact your relationships with other people and your intimacy with God?

Walking in the light does not necessarily mean that I tell everyone everything. Sometimes Christians get this confused and think that because I’m a Christ-follower, I must be transparent about everything to everyone. This is not true. Walking in the light means that you have close intimate friends who know everything about you, and you’ve talked to God about it and are living free or at least are in process. It impacts my relationship because when I walk in the light with Jesus, I’m usually living with integrity and people can trust me. It creates greater intimacy with those around me as well when I put God first. When we are walking in the light first, everything else seems to fall into place. It doesn’t mean my life is perfect, just that my priorities are right.

- 7) What does it mean to deceive ourselves by claiming we have no sin? How does this hinder intimacy with God?

Claiming sinlessness denies the truth of our fallen nature and blocks the transformative work of God in our lives. Intimacy with God requires humility and recognition of our need for His grace.

### **Lamentations 3:40 ESV**

*<sup>40</sup> Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the Lord! <sup>ii</sup>*

- 8) Explain this verse in your own words. What does it mean to test and examine our ways?

This passage is from Lamentations where Israel is in devastation. This is the cry of the writer to the people. But there is a principle of self-examination in this verse. Testing and examining our ways is about asking ourselves hard questions and being very honest. Are there things in my life that are contrary to God’s will in my life? I need to test them, examine them and return to the Lord with them.

### **Hebrews 10:24-25 CSB**

*And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching<sup>iii</sup>*

- 9) How does this verse connect intimacy with God, self-examination and others?

First of all, it’s asking us to “consider”, which means think about. Secondly, provoking love and good works requires us to know what those things are. We need to be in the Word to know what God’s will is. Anyone who says he knows God’s will outside of the Word of God is deceiving themselves. It also helps us with one another because we’re

encouraging one another. I know that when I'm encouraged, I live a more godly life. I am a better servant to others around me. How else does it connect these things?

10) Is there an area in your life that you feel you need to examine more closely? Or are you struggling with intimacy with God? What could you do differently moving forward?

## CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Reflection questions for Chair Time. Think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

- 1) Are there attitudes or actions that Jesus is asking you to surrender to Him?
- 2) Are you spending the time trying to grow in intimacy with Jesus? Is there something that Jesus would like you to start or stop in regards to this?
- 3) Who can you encourage this week to step closer to Jesus in their faith? Make a point to call them and encourage them.

---

<sup>i</sup> [Christian Standard Bible](#) (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2020), 1 Jn 1:5–10.

<sup>ii</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), La 3:40.

<sup>iii</sup> [Christian Standard Bible](#) (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2020), Heb 10:24–25.