

Living New | Week 1

Assurance: Experiencing Security as a Beloved Child

Ask your group members to share something that especially stood out to them, that especially encouraged them, or that they found especially helpful from the message or FONL study material this week. If your group is large, you may only have time for four or five responses.

As a group, read John 10:27-29. Based on these verses, ask your group to identify why assurance is possible for God's people. Write their responses on a large Post-it.

Ask a group member to open your session in prayer.

On a large Post-it, write "Benefits of having assurance of salvation." Ask your group to brainstorm: "What are the spiritual, emotional, and relational benefits for someone to have strong assurance of his/her salvation?" Write down their answers on the Post-it.

As a leader, share your experience of coming to an assurance of your own personal salvation. Be sure to point out and list some principles that may apply for everyone else.

Read aloud verses that deal with the eternal security of every believer: John 5:24, John 6:37-40, 1 John 5:11-13, Philippians 1:6, and Romans 8:38-39. Ask your group members, "Which of these Scriptures brings the most encouragement to you and why?"

Read Matthew 13:18-23. In light of this passage, ask your group to discuss the meaning of the following quote: "The faith that fizzles before the finish, had a flaw from the first." After the discussion, point out that perseverance is a gift from God that accompanies our salvation—that it is not the root of our salvation, but the fruit of our salvation.

Set up a scenario (optional – have group members pair up and practice dealing with this scenario): *"You have a friend who is struggling with assurance of salvation and is asking you for your advice. You want to help him examine his life to see if he is truly of the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5). How would you give spiritual insight to your friend?"*

On a large Post-it, write, "Evidence that someone is truly a child of God" and record your group's responses. (Note: This week's study contains several of the marks that should accompany personal salvation. Make sure you reference these.)

Ask your group to reflect on how sure they are of their own salvation. Ask them to rate their assurance on a scale of 0 to 100. Ask if they are more or less secure based on this week's message and study. Discuss how members of your group might be able to grow in their personal assurance.

As you close your time, refer back to the large Post-it you produced earlier, "Benefits of having assurance of salvation." In prayer, ask God to produce these benefits in the lives of individuals within your group. Also, pray for some friends and family of your group members who have not yet come to understand the blessings of the assurance of salvation as beloved children of God.