

2026-06-24 Small Group Guide

Small Group Guide: The Danger of Spiritual Presumption

Based on Amos 9 and Hebrews 10-12

Opening Prayer

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to receive His truth, and to give the group humility to examine their own spiritual lives honestly.

Ice Breaker (5-10 minutes)

Share about a time when you presumed something would turn out a certain way, but it didn't. What did you learn from that experience?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

God's kindness leads to repentance, but His patience has limits

The Israelites became comfortable with sin and stopped seeking God
They presumed on God's grace without maintaining relationship with Him

Compromise is progressive

Samson's story shows how small compromises lead to devastating consequences

Sin rarely starts big—it grows gradually when we stop being vigilant

God disciplines those He loves

Discipline is evidence of sonship, not rejection

God's goal is our holiness and strength, not our comfort

We must actively pursue spiritual strength

Faith requires intentional effort and training

We're either growing stronger or becoming weaker—there's no neutral

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text (15-20 minutes)

Read Amos 9:1-10. What stands out to you about God's tone in this passage? How does this compare to your typical view of God?

In the sermon, the pastor suggested the Israelites were "comfortable with sin and selfishness." What signs indicated they had reached this point?

Read Hebrews 10:19-31. How does the writer balance assurance of salvation with warnings about deliberate sin? How do you reconcile these two truths?

Personal Reflection (20-25 minutes)

The pastor mentioned we can be "conscientious without being paranoid" about our salvation. Where do you tend to fall on this spectrum? What helps you maintain healthy balance?

Samson's compromises: Can you identify areas in your own life where you've made small compromises that could lead to bigger problems? What would it look like to address those now?

The sermon states: "When we're worried, we're seeking for ourselves. We don't believe God's got it handled."

What are you currently worried about?

What would change if you truly believed God has it handled?

Read Hebrews 12:1-13. The pastor emphasized "strengthening feeble arms and weak knees."

What areas of your spiritual life feel weak right now?

What practical steps could strengthen those areas?

Application and Action (15-20 minutes)

The pastor mentioned we often harbor unforgiveness while expecting God's forgiveness. Is there someone you need to forgive? What's preventing you from releasing that person?

Seeking God daily: The sermon emphasized that seeking God should be part of everyday life—prayer, reading Scripture, serving others.

Which of these comes most naturally to you?

Which is most challenging?

How could the group support you in the challenging area?

The Israelites became "unaware of those around them." How aware are you of:

People in need around you?

Opportunities to demonstrate God's love?

Ways to serve that you've been ignoring?

The Hard Questions (10-15 minutes)

The sermon states: "God does care. And there is...too long or too little for too long is too late." Does this concern you? Why or why not?

Hebrews 10:26-27 says, "If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left."

How do you understand this passage?

How does it affect your view of grace and accountability?

The pastor asked: "How is your faith and your holiness? Are you growing or shrinking?" Take a moment of silent reflection, then share (only if comfortable) where you honestly are right now.

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following to commit to this week:

Option 1: Daily Seeking

Spend 15 minutes each day in prayer and Scripture reading
Journal one thing God showed you each day
Share your insights with the group next week

Option 2: Strengthen Weak Areas

Identify one spiritual discipline you've neglected
Create a specific plan to practice it this week
Ask one group member to check in with you mid-week

Option 3: Forgiveness and Service

Write down anyone you're harboring resentment toward
Pray for them daily and ask God to help you forgive
Do one act of service for someone who can't repay you

Option 4: Evidence Evaluation

List the "evidence of God's goodness" in your life
Write down areas where you've become presumptuous
Confess these to God and one trusted person
Accountability Partners (5 minutes)

Pair up with someone in the group. Share:

One area where you need to grow stronger spiritually
One specific action you're committing to this week
Exchange contact information to check in mid-week
Closing Reflection

Read together: Hebrews 12:1-2

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith."

Silent Reflection (2-3 minutes):

What is one thing hindering your race?

What would it look like to "throw it off" this week?

How can you "fix your eyes on Jesus" more intentionally?

Closing Prayer

Have each person pray for the person on their right, specifically:

For strength in weak areas

For awareness of God's presence

For the courage to address compromises

For a heart that seeks God continually

For Further Study

Amos 4:6-13 - God's repeated attempts to get Israel's attention

Romans 2:4 - God's kindness leads to repentance

Matthew 6:33 - Seek first His kingdom

James 4:8 - Draw near to God and He will draw near to you

2 Timothy 2:15 - Rightly handling the word of truth

Leader's Notes

Be sensitive: Questions about sin, compromise, and judgment can make people defensive. Create a safe space for honest sharing.

Avoid legalism: The goal isn't to create fear but to inspire genuine pursuit of God.

Balance grace and truth: Emphasize both God's incredible love AND His call to holiness.

Personal vulnerability: Leaders should be willing to share their own struggles with compromise and growth.

Follow up: Check in with group members during the week, especially those who shared vulnerable areas.

Remember: The goal isn't perfection but direction. We're all growing, and God's grace is sufficient as we pursue Him with sincere hearts.