Leader Guide

For week of January 19, 2025

Title: "Our Comforter" Text: Matthew 6:25-34 Series: Jesus Only







MESSAGE OUTLINE

4 Comforting Truths to Address Anxiety

- 1. When God Guides, God Provides (v.25-26)
- 2. When God Provides, God Resides (v. 27-30)
- 3. When God Resides, God Revives (v. 31-33)
- 4. When God Revives, We Abide (v. 34)

GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Men's Conference 2025: February 8, 8:30 AM 3:00 PM \$40
- Student's Winter Camp 2025: February 14-16, \$199
- Women's Conference 2025: March 8, 2025, \$40

GROUP DISCUSSION

SHARE: Get Them Talking

• What's something small you used to stress about that now seems kind of funny? What helped you move past it?

This question helps the group open up. Gently guide toward meaningful reflections on handling worry, focusing on hope and growth.

STUDY: Get Them In The Word

- Read <u>Matthew 6:25-26</u>. What does Jesus reveal about how God cares for His creation? How does this truth comfort you when you feel anxious?

 Encourage reflection on how God values His children even more than His creation. Gently remind
 - the group that their worth is rooted in God's love, not performance.
- Jesus says, "Do not be anxious about your life." How do verses 25-26 challenge the way we often respond to worry?
 - Focus on the shift from self-reliance to God-dependence. Ask how surrendering control to God brings freedom from worry. Consider studying <u>Proverbs 3:5-6</u>, <u>Philippians 4:6-7</u>, and <u>1 Peter 5:6-7</u> to ensure you're communicating God's truth from God's Word to your group this week.
- Read <u>Matthew 6:27-30</u>. What is Jesus' point in comparing anxiety to adding hours to our lives? How does this relate to trusting God's timing?
 - Highlight how anxiety often stems from trying to control what we cannot. Emphasize trusting God's care and timing over our own strategies for security.

STUDY: Get Them In The Word (continued...)

- Read <u>Matthew 6:31-33</u>. What does it mean to "seek first the kingdom of God" in the context of anxiety? How can focusing on God's priorities shift our hearts?

 Guide the group to explore practical ways to seek God first—prayer, Scripture, serving others. Keep the focus on trust, not performance.
- Read <u>Matthew 6:34</u>. What does it mean that "tomorrow will be anxious for itself"? How does this truth free us to live with greater peace today?

 Help the group see Jesus' teaching as an invitation to release control and trust His daily provision.

 Encourage sharing of personal experiences where trusting God one day at a time brought peace.

SUPPORT: Get Them Caring For Each Other

- What specific area of life do you struggle to trust God with most? How can we remind each other of God's care this week?
- How would you like the group to pray for you this week?

LEADER'S HEART

This week, we're exploring Matthew 6:25-34, where Jesus addresses the anxious heart with compassion and truth. His words remind us that God deeply cares for our needs and invites us to release our worries into His capable hands. As a leader, your role is not to fix every struggle but to create a space where people feel safe to share while gently pointing them back to Jesus—our true Comforter who offers peace that surpasses understanding.

Anxiety often feels isolating, making people believe they're the only ones struggling. This discussion is an opportunity for your group to experience the comfort of community and the truth of God's Word. Encourage vulnerability while keeping the focus on who Jesus is rather than personal efforts to overcome worry. Remind your group that healing and peace come not from striving but from surrendering to the care of a loving Father.

TRANSFORMATIONAL TRUTH:

We don't fight anxiety by controlling more. We fight it by trusting more—trusting in God's care, provision, and presence. As you lead, emphasize how God's faithfulness has already been proven in Jesus and encourage your group to respond with faith, even in the midst of uncertainty. Trust grows as we shift our focus from self-reliance to full dependence on Him.

OUR PRAYER FOR YOU:

Lord, empower our leaders to lead with grace and courage this week. Fill their conversations with truth, hope, and reminders of Your victory. Strengthen them to trust You more themselves and overflow that to their group members this week. Amen.

"You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you."

Isaiah 26:3