

Welcome to Session 1 of the Marks of Ownership Series!

We are excited about this study. We believe that this series will provide a unique opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of your group members and where they are in their faith journey. The insights below will help you to focus your time in order to leverage this study for the greatest impact, but please keep the following thoughts in mind each week as you prepare for your group time:

- Watch the Video Teaching Segment in advance so that you know what to expect.
- Read through the study questions in advance, too.
- You will not have enough time to answer each question with your group, so choose a handful of questions that you believe will create a high quality dialogue between your group members. We will include a few tips in the guide below to help you with this process.

JOURNAL & GATHER SEGMENT

This is the first week of the Marks of Ownership Study. Your group is probably just getting familiar with the study guide and all of the resources it provides. If your group did use the journal pages to take notes during the message this weekend, great! If not, that's OK. Just make sure they know about those pages and encourage them to take their study guide to service for the upcoming service. You can still start off your group time with the two reflection questions:

How did this message challenge you? How did this message encourage you?

Give your group time to process their thoughts about the message before starting the video segment.

VIDEO TEACHING SEGMENT

Heather's testimony contains many different examples of an "ownership" mentality. If you need to, take some time to talk about her testimony before you start with the study questions. Here are some elements that you may want to highlight from the testimony:

- Heather's testimony shows us that owning our faith is not about receiving accolades—it's about saying "yes" to what God asks us to do.
- Heather learned to own her faith in a new way because a mentor tapped her on the shoulder and encouraged her to lead a women's bible study.
- Owning our faith is something that God will equip and empower us to do!
- When we decide to own our faith, it almost always helps others to start to own their faith as well.
- Everyone is called to own their faith!





WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

The first chapter of Haggai provides a great example of the difference between members and owners. The people of Israel were more concerned with their personal comfort than the state of the temple- the house of the Lord! They hadn't put the time or effort into establishing faith in their community. Because of this, they were missing out on the abundance that a fully-owned faith in God brings. **Haggai 2:6-9** describes the blessing that God promised to his people if they would persevere in their newly found "ownership" mentality.

"This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. 'I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the LORD Almighty. 'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the LORD Almighty. 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the LORD Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the LORD Almighty."

Have a group of new believers? If so, reading all of Haggai 1 may be a bit intimidating. You may want to ask question 1 (*What are the typical expectations...*), and then move straight to Haggai 1:5-9 on page 17. Use the follow up question (*What is God teaching us about priorities?*) to check for understanding.

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

It is counterintuitive to think that "fear and trembling" play a part in our relationship with Jesus, but is important for us to understand that God expects believers to take their faith seriously. Faith isn't genetic! Being a faithful person requires intentionality. No one can figure out your faith for you.

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

Have a group of mature believers? If so, the first question in this section (*Give careful thought to your ways. Where in your life...*) might be the perfect question to shift the dialogue from knowledge to application.

Remember, you will be setting a precedent for this study in the first week! Make sure that you start this series off with this practical action step: encourage your group to SOAP.

Each week of the study will start with a brief discussion about the message and a brief time of sharing about SOAP insights (You will likely only have time for one or two people to share).

Let your group know about this in advance so that they will be prepared to contribute.

