

2022

# STRUCTURE Group Guide W1

Living intentionally forward

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## Overview

Discipline, it's a word that has taken on a life of itself. Having it has created fortunes. Not having it has lost them. However, its modern application seems a bit watered down, a bit self-centered. Biblical discipline, properly understood and applied, holds the key to knowing God and following him well. And, its benefits don't just stop with us, they impact everyone around us. Structure, as unnatural as it can feel at times, is written into the very world around us. And, when we let it guide what's in us, true freedom can be found.

## Week One - The 5 Steps to Freedom

How does a church follow God well in the New Year? Is there more to preparing for what's ahead than resolve and intention? In 2022, Vertical Church as a community will follow a sacred pattern from an ancient story. This pattern, we pray to God, will use us, keep us, advance us toward the future he has written for us.

**Big Idea:** Discipline: to prepare for attacks of the enemy and the advance the plans of God.

**Scripture:** 2 Chronicles 29-32, Proverbs 4:32, Psalms 139:23-24, Romans 12:1-2, I Corinthians 16:13-14, James 5:16, Psalm 130:5-7

### Key Takeaways & Action Items:

- **Get rid of the filth.**
- **Worship as best as we know how.**
- **Make preparations for spiritual attack.**
- **Pray.**
- **Wait on God to move**

### Group Guide Questions:

1. Read 2 Chronicles 29-32 (King Hezekiah Purifies the Temple)  
Although it's a lengthy story, name the things that stood out to you most:
2. In this story we see a bad king going against God, then his son(King Hezekiah), who comes after him trying to make things right- can you relate to this family origin issue? Maybe bad examples led by family that you're trying to correct?
3. As the new king tries to make things right with God, the enemy steps into attack (King of Assyria). King Hezekiah prepared as best he could and his people followed suit - but he questioned if it was enough. What are some things you feel you've prepared as best as

you can, but still unsure if it will work out? What are your next steps? How can you pray to God to “act”

4. When following God, we know the enemy is ready to attack us just like this story. Ben went over 5 principles in place of new years resolutions/goals so that we can prepare for the enemies attacks this year:
  - a. Get rid of filth (Read Proverbs 4:23 & Psalm 139:23-24esv)
  - b. Worship as best as you know how (Read Romans 12:1-2)
  - c. Prepare for spiritual battle (Read 1 Corinthians 16:13)
  - d. Pray (Read James 5:16)
  - e. Wait on God to work among us (Read Psalm 130:5-7)
5. After reading through the 5 principles above, give practical ways you plan to put each of these into practice as an individual and as a group:

## Resources:

- Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. Proverbs 4:23 (ESV)
- Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! Psalm 139:23-24 (ESV)
- I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:1-2 (ESV)
- Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (ESV)
- Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:16 (ESV)
- I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. Psalm 130:5-7 (ESV)