

GLEN MEADOWS LIFE GROUP CURRICULUM

SPRING 2018



POWER | FULL

LIFE TOGETHER

**WE WEREN'T MADE TO WAIT FOR
HOLINESS
WE WERE MADE TO PURSUE IT**

Making disciples who make disciples by living life together

Content Overview

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Living a POWER|full LIFE

P | Prayer
O | Obedience
W | Word
E | Exaltation of the Father
R | Relationships
full | Full of the Holy Spirit

april

8	101 Starting Point
8	GM Kids: Find Phil
8	Lord's Supper (Evening Service)
20-22	GM Missions: Casas Por Cristo
21	Skillet / For King & Country Concert @ Coliseum
22	102 Next Steps Class
27	Parent's Night Out
28	GM Women: Ladies Conference
28	GM Men: Men's Breakfast
29	GM Quarterly Meeting

may

5	GM Men: Life Riders Coopers in Llano
6	Lord's Supper (Evening Service)
9	Awana Awards Ceremony
13	Mother's Day / No evening service
15	GM Men: BYOB (Blue Bell)
18	Parent's Night Out
19	GM Women: Mother-Daughter Tea
20	Senior Sunday & Celebration
27	No Evening Service
28	GM Offices Closed
30	GM Youth: 5th Qtr

june

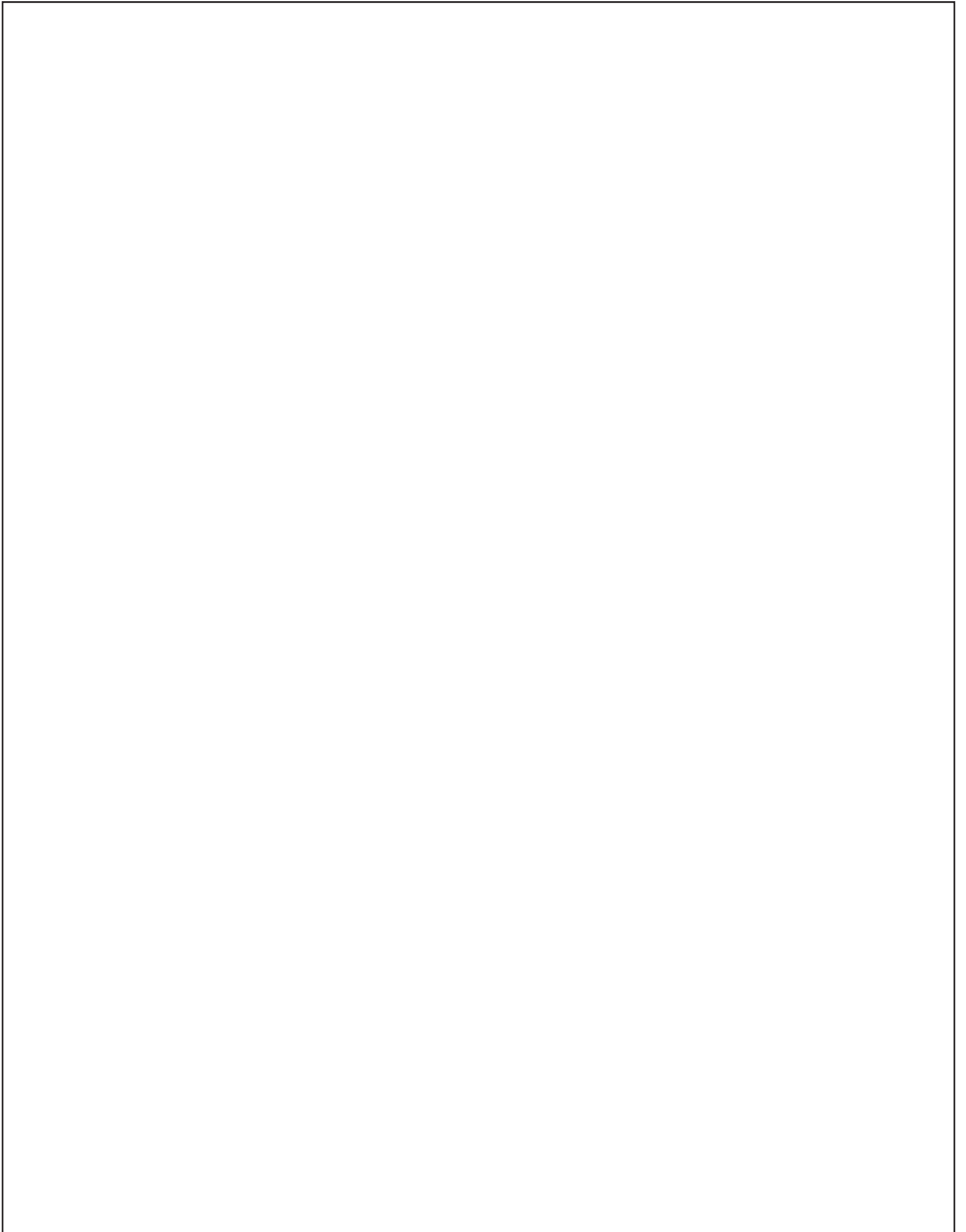
4-8	VBS (Vacation Bible School)
4-8	GM Youth: The Mix
10	101 Starting Point
10	Lord's Supper (Evening Service)
16	GM Singles: Rangers Game
17	Father's Day / No Evening Service
22	Parent's Night Out
23-27	GM Youth: Summer Camp Glorieta, NM
24	102 Next Steps Class

july

4	GM Office Closed
8	Lord's Supper (Evening Service)
16-23	Peru Mission Trip
27	Parents Night Out
29	GM Quarterly Meeting
7/30-8/2	GM Kids: Preteen Kids Camp

august

4	GM Men's Breakfast
10	SS/LG Party Night
12	Lord's Supper (Evening Service)
19	FOCUS Event
24	Parent's Night Out
25	GM Single's BBQ
26	LIFE GROUP KICK OFF FOR FALL
29	GM Youth: 5th Quarter / Fall Kick-Off



Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰ Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens. ¹³ For this reason take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand. ¹⁴ Stand, therefore, with truth like a belt around your waist, righteousness like armor on your chest, ¹⁵ and your feet sandaled with readiness for the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In every situation take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit—which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel. ²⁰ For this I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I might be bold enough to speak about it as I should.”



LIVING A POWER|FULL LIFE

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

CELEBRATION: Share how our last life group impacted your week?



COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

CELEBRATION

Recognizing what God has done in our group

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

TAKEAWAY

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to praise God and share our requests and needs

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to **Matthew 18**

Lets get started...

Paul had spent three years in Ephesus during his third missionary journey. The Ephesian church had a special place in his heart, so much so that he sent his closest ministry partner, Timothy, to serve this church. They even sent someone back to visit Paul when he was imprisoned in Rome. When the visitor returned to Ephesus, Paul sent this letter of encouragement with him, which we know as the book of Ephesians. Paul's heart in this letter revealed his passion for how the church body should look and challenged them to live closely together in Christ. Ironically, he wrote all this out of glory to the Father while he was in prison. Paul, himself, was spiritually disciplined enough that when the hardest of times hit, he was still full of joy, praising God.

H.....

For many of us, our circumstances drive the temperature of our hearts. When things are going great, we are happy and content with life; we sometimes even act as if we don't have a need for God. But when things are spiraling downward, we whine, complain, and cry out to God to save us. God's desire is that we prepare ourselves spiritually so that no matter what our circumstances, we find joy and peace in Him. In today's passage, we will see the exact playbook on how God wants us to prepare ourselves spiritually. We are not living in just a physical world that we can see, but everywhere we go, there is a spiritual battle going on. Just as a soldier arms himself for battle, and an athlete disciplines his body for the big game, we also must prepare and discipline ourselves for the spiritual battle that goes on all around us.

U



As you are listening today, be thinking of ways you personally can grow in the area of preparation for spiritual battle.

KEY VERSE

Ephesians 6:11

“Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil”

SUMMARY

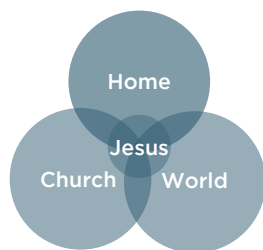
The body of Christ as a whole must be armed to fight the battle against the mighty powers of this dark world

The goal of the army we face is to defeat Christ’s church

We must make prayer our life and make our life a prayer

God can use us in any circumstance to do His will

Who’s your ONE?



LIFECIRCLES

TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God’s Word as best as you can without teaching. You don’t have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

FULL ARMOR OF GOD
EPHESIANS 6:10-20



For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.

According to this passage, what is the importance of preparing ourselves spiritually?



What does this passage tell us about Paul’s faith in Jesus?

How does each piece of “armor” help us when the enemy tries to make trouble for us?

Which pieces of “armor” are strongest/weakest in your life?



How can you personally grow in the area of preparing yourself like a soldier in battle?

What are some ways you can pray at all times?



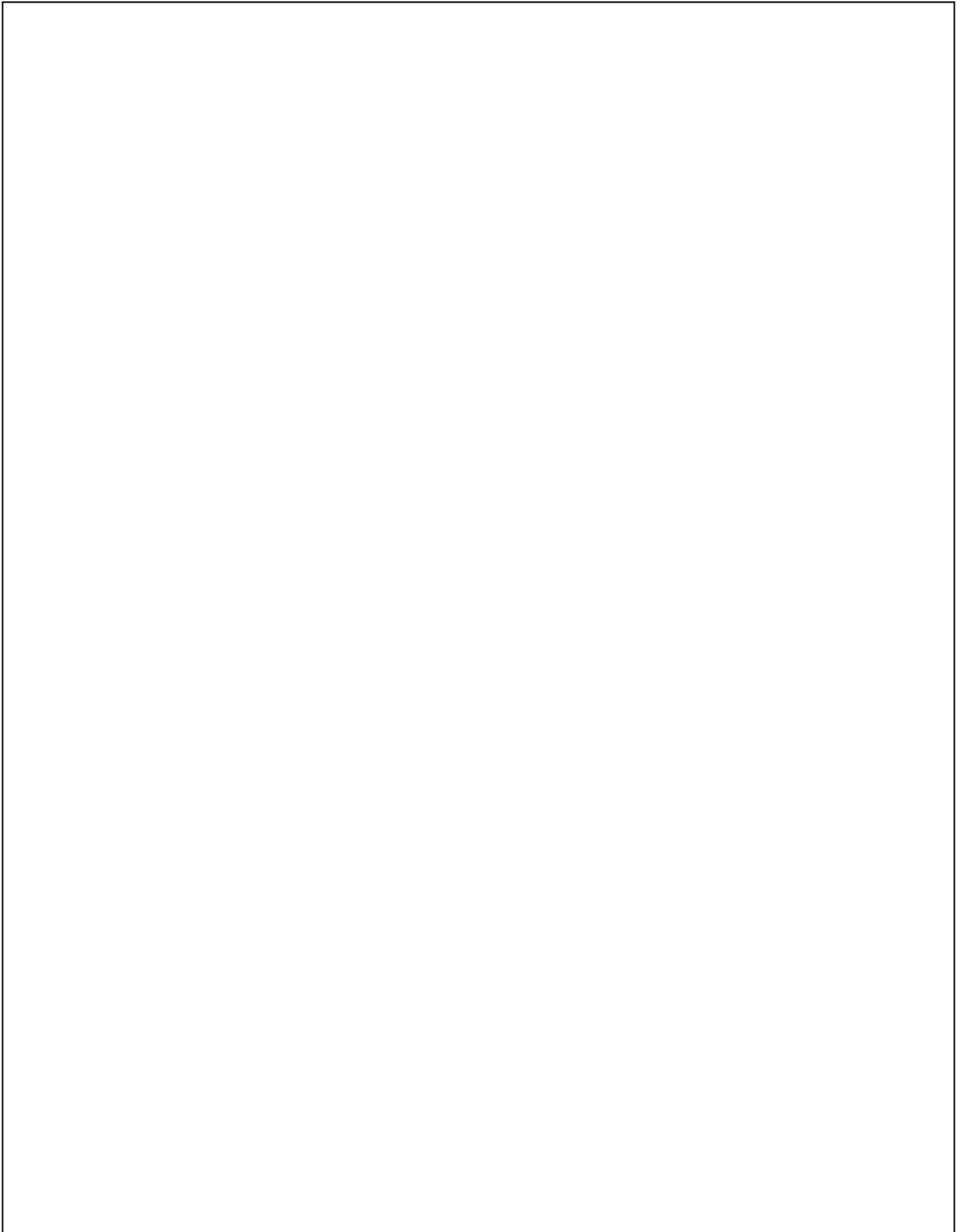
Make every effort this week to pray in all circumstances.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

CLOSING PRAYER: _____



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP



Matthew 7:7-12

⁷ "Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹ Who among you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him. ¹² Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."



POWER|FULL PRAYER

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

CELEBRATION: Share how our last life group impacted your week?



COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

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PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

CELEBRATION

Recognizing what God has done in our group

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

TAKEAWAY

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to praise God and share our requests and needs

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

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DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to **Matthew 18**

Lets get started...

The Sermon on the Mount is the longest piece of teaching from Jesus in the New Testament, and the impact it has on us today as believers is still just as powerful as it was the day Jesus stood before the crowd near the Sea of Galilee. He spoke of life traits to adopt such as our need for God, humility, mercy, working for peace, and so much more. Today's passage occurred shortly after He spoke on how to pray, encompassing adoration to the Father and acknowledging His will, provision, intercession, and protection. To be clear, Jesus is demonstrating how to live in righteousness for those who follow Him.

H
.....

Prayer is the tool God has given us to have direct access to Him. But not only so that we can talk to Him but so we can have a relationship with Him. Jesus modeled prayer, in relationship with the Father over and over again. In times where we in our fleshly nature would've given into temptation and worldly desires, Jesus' first reaction was to talk to His Father, our Heavenly Father. In the same way Jesus has given us access directly to the Father in prayer. Jesus would always seek His Father first. How often do we find ourselves seeking Christ as our first resort? God is with us literally everywhere we go. It's not like we have to wait our turn to talk to Him. He waits patiently for us to call on His name and talk to Him like a trusted friend because that's exactly what He is.

U

As you are listening today, be thinking of how you can ask God for His will to be done rather than your own.



KEY VERSE

Matthew 7:8

"For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

SUMMARY

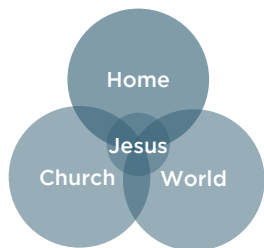
As we draw closer to God, we learn the right things to ask of Him

God wants relationship with us, not just to give us what we want

Good gifts from God like righteousness, sincerity, purity, wisdom, and humility are essential in our faith

We have the ability because of what Christ did for us on the cross to go directly to God in prayer

Who's your ONE?



LIFECIRCLES

TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

ASK, SEEK, KNOCK
MATTHEW 7:7-12



For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.

What is this passage saying about prayer?



What are the comparisons Jesus uses in this passage?

Verse 12 is a familiar verse, even among non-believers. How does the passage help you put this verse in context?

How would you pray differently if you used God's perspective?



When we pray for "snakes or stones" (things that are not beneficial to us in our lives), why doesn't God give us what we ask?

How has God provided for you in your life? How can you change the way you pray in order to ask God for His will rather than your own?



What is God asking you to seek this week, and what are some steps you can take to accomplish His mission?



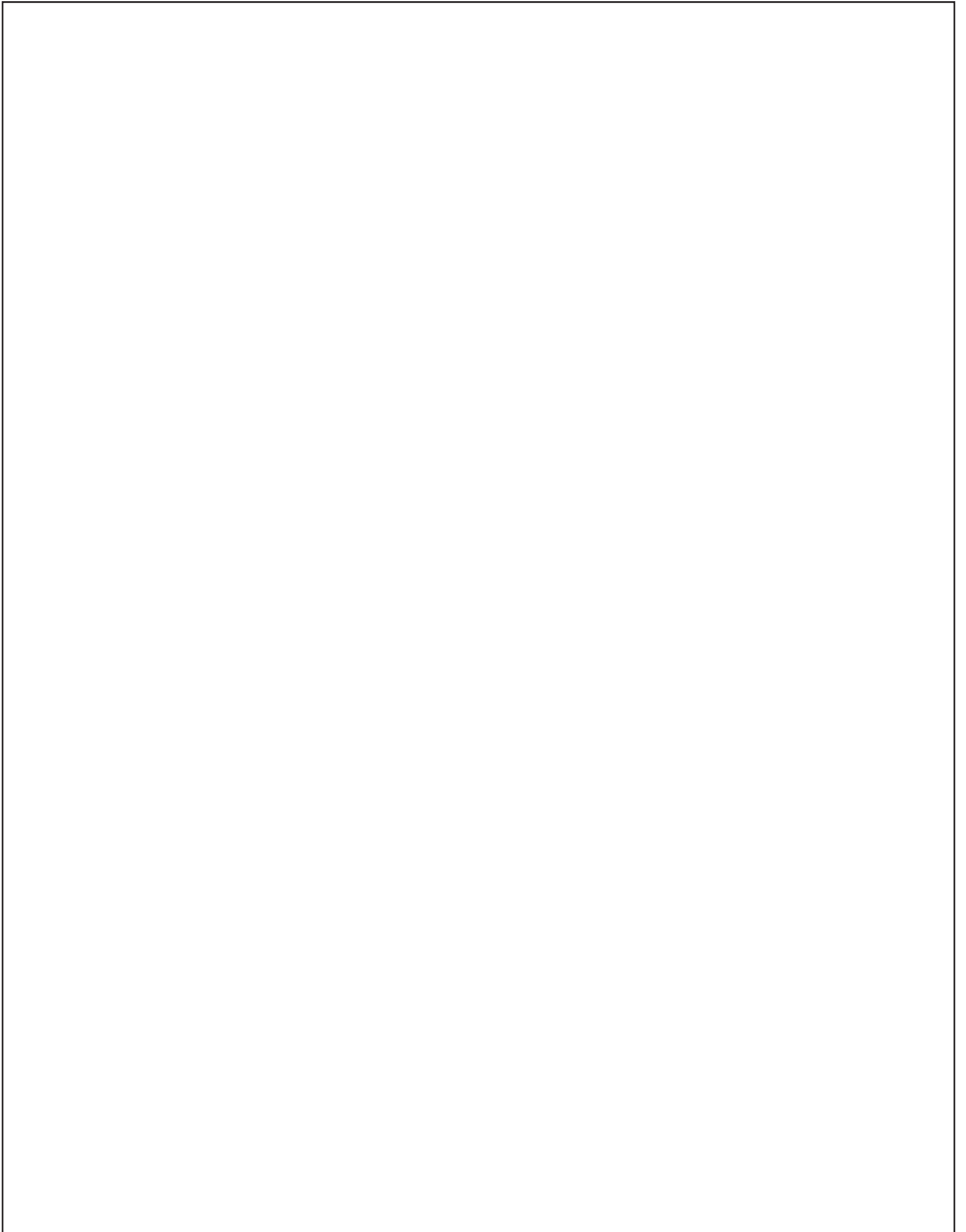
PRAYER REQUESTS:



CLOSING PRAYER: _____



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP



Matthew 7:15-29

“Be on your guard against false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravaging wolves. ¹⁶ You’ll recognize them by their fruit. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree can’t produce bad fruit; neither can a bad tree produce good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ So you’ll recognize them by their fruit.

²¹ ‘Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?’ ²³ Then I will announce to them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers!’

²⁴ ‘Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn’t collapse, because its foundation was on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and doesn’t act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. It collapsed with a great crash.’

²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, ²⁹ because he was teaching them like one who had authority, and not like their scribes.”



POWER|FULL OBEDIENCE

COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

CELEBRATION

Recognizing what God has done in our group

TOPIC

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TAKEAWAY

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WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

CELEBRATION: Share how our last life group impacted your week?



Lets get started...

Today's lesson comes just off the heels of last week's when Jesus was speaking of prayer and how we should ask of Him, seek Him, and then find Him. This week, however, we focus on obedience. Many times in God's Word we find stories and passages showing God's desire for us is to obey Him over anything else. God sees our hearts and knows when we are offering lip service and when we are sincerely obeying Him from the depths of our soul. Often when God asks us to do things, we don't understand the "why" behind it until years later, if ever. God's reasoning is not like ours. He sees the whole picture when we only see a small piece of it. We must trust and obey Him at all costs.

H.....

There are very few people, if any, who have lived out a full life without any hardships or difficulties. Even Jesus, the only perfect human who ever walked this earth, lived a life of hardships and persecution. Storms in our life are inevitable. Frequently we are the ones who create the storms, and other times we find ourselves caught in the middle, just trying to hold onto whatever is steady. In both cases, we must hold tight to Jesus, who is the constant, steadfast, immovable rock. He only asks that we trust and obey Him. We have two choices in life: to live a self-centered life, following the world's agenda or choose to follow Jesus and obey the Father's will, trusting that no matter what, He takes all things and works them together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

U



As you are listening today, be thinking of ways your life reflects the directions that Jesus is giving.

KEY VERSE

Matthew 7:22

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.”

SUMMARY

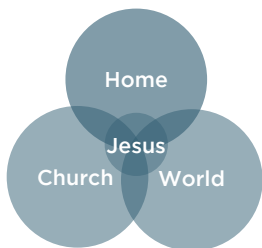
Jesus is more concerned about our walk than our talk

What we do is an indication of what we believe

Obedience and faith in Christ are the only things that will matter on Judgement Day

Obedience is better than sacrifice (1 Sam. 15:22)

Who's your ONE?



LIFECIRCLES

TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

HEARERS VS. DOERS
MATTHEW 7:15-29



For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.

According to this passage, what is our obedience to the Father based on?



What does Jesus say of those who listen and obey His teachings?

What does He say about those who hear His commands yet do not obey them?

Jesus contrasts two different types of people in this passage. Which one are you most like?



In what ways does your life right now reflect the directions Jesus gives in this passage?

Share what would happen if a serious life storm hit you right now. Would your house collapse, or would it stand strong on the rock?



Think of some areas in your life that need solidifying and ask God this week to strengthen you.



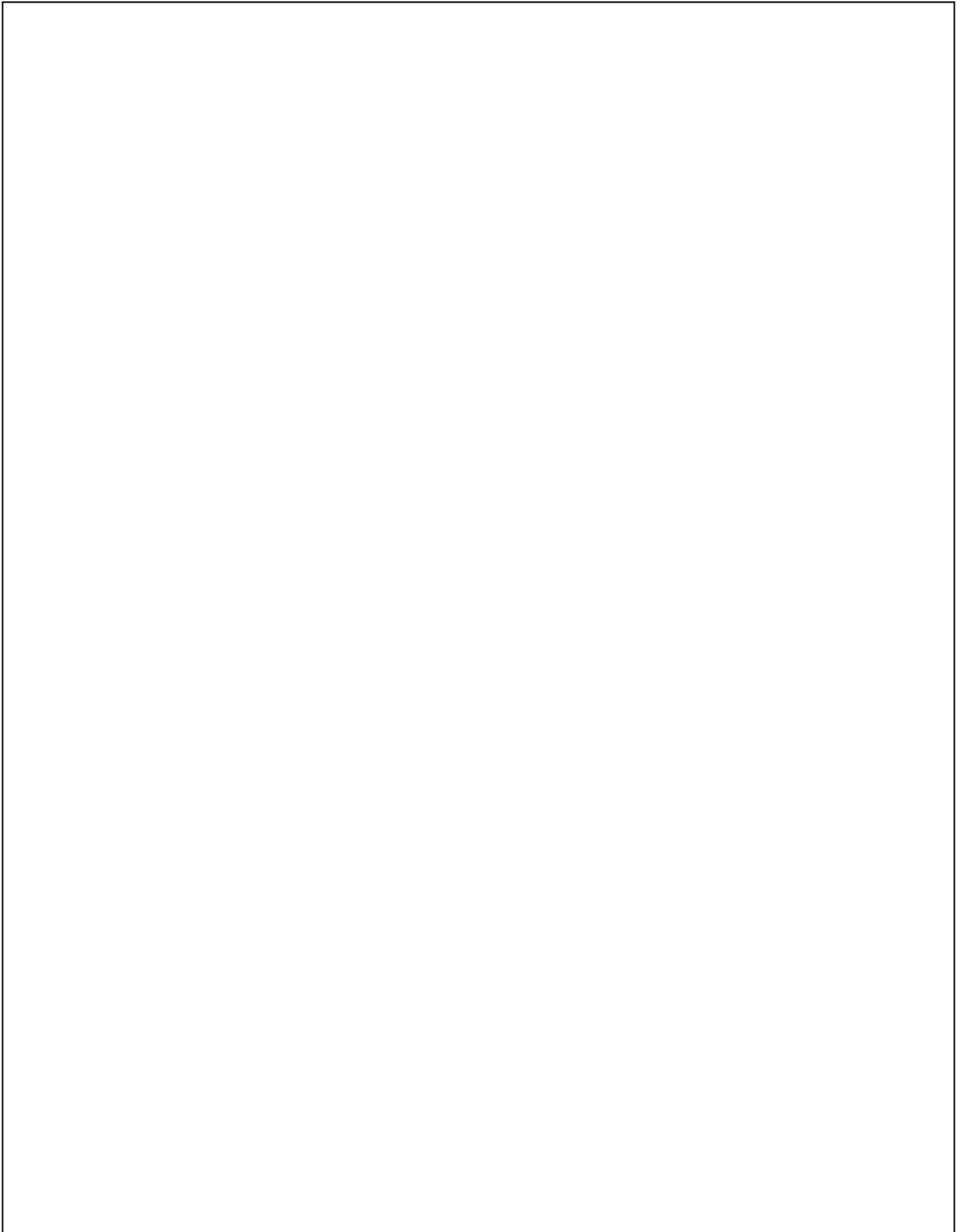
PRAYER REQUESTS:



CLOSING PRAYER: _____



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP



Hebrews 4:12-16 (ESV)

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. ¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”



POWER|FULL WORD

COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

CELEBRATION

Recognizing what God has done in our group

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

TAKEAWAY

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to praise God and share our requests and needs

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to **Matthew 18**

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

CELEBRATION: Share how our last life group impacted your week?



Lets get started...

Although God's Word is physically written by various prophets, disciples, and mighty men of God, it is all inspired by God Himself. As a matter of fact, in Revelation it is written that if anyone adds or takes away from the words of the Bible, God will add plagues to their life and remove them from the Book of Life. He is very serious about His word; so much so that we will learn today He says His Word is living and active. All that was written thousands of years ago is still applicable today. One verse today may be applied completely differently than it will be in two years from now, yet the words remain the same.

H
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Have you ever been reading or listening to a passage from the Bible that you have heard previously, but all of a sudden it makes sense in a deeper way today than ever before? One of the things about Life Groups is that as a group we see God's Word come to life right in front of us from all different perspectives and walks of life. We have the opportunity to see where God is working in others' lives just as He is working in ours. Today's passage explains this anomaly in a way that is not only mind blowing but also puts our hearts in check. We will see that there is nothing we can do to hide our thoughts, actions, emotions, and feelings from God, our Father, Creator, and Friend.

U

As you are listening today, be thinking of how God's Word has been living and active in your life.



KEY VERSE

Hebrews 4:12

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

SUMMARY

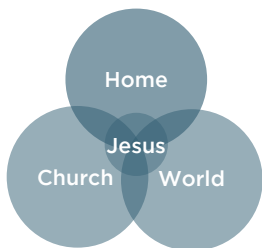
God’s Word reveals who we are and what we are not

God’s Word discerns what is within us, whether good or evil

We must not just listen to God’s Word, we must do what it says (James 1:22)

God sees all that we do and knows all that we think

Who’s your ONE?



LIFECIRCLES

TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God’s Word as best as you can without teaching. You don’t have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

GOD’S WORD, LIVING AND ACTIVE
HEBREWS 4:12-16



For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



What does “living and active” mean?

What does this passage say about our private thoughts and actions?

How do you view the Bible after reading this passage?

How does it make you feel knowing that all of your thoughts and actions, even those you want to be secret, are seen by the One who created you?



How has God’s Word been living and active in your life?

What does God see when He cuts deep into your life?



Make a conscious effort this week to read God’s word and think about what He says regarding your next thought and/or action. Pray that He helps you live a holy life that is pleasing to Him.

PRAYER REQUESTS:



CLOSING PRAYER: _____



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

1 Kings 18:20-39

²⁰ So Ahab summoned all the Israelites and gathered the prophets at Mount Carmel.

²¹ Then Elijah approached all the people and said, 'How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him. But if Baal, follow him.' But the people didn't answer him a word.

²² Then Elijah said to the people, 'I am the only remaining prophet of the Lord, but Baal's prophets are 450 men. ²³ Let two bulls be given to us. They are to choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and place it on the wood but not light the fire. I will prepare the other bull and place it on the wood but not light the fire. ²⁴ Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The God who answers with fire, he is God.'

All the people answered, 'That's fine.'

²⁵ Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, 'Since you are so numerous, choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first. Then call on the name of your god but don't light the fire.'

²⁶ So they took the bull that he gave them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, 'Baal, answer us!' But there was no sound; no one answered. Then they danced around the altar they had made.

²⁷ At noon Elijah mocked them. He said, 'Shout loudly, for he's a god! Maybe he's thinking it over; maybe he has wandered away; or maybe he's on the road. Perhaps he's sleeping and will wake up!' ²⁸ They shouted loudly, and cut themselves with knives and spears, according to their custom, until blood gushed over them. ²⁹ All afternoon they kept on raving until the offering of the evening sacrifice, but there was no sound; no one answered, no one paid attention.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, 'Come near me.' So all the people approached him. Then he repaired the Lord's altar that had been torn down: ³¹ Elijah took twelve stones—according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, 'Israel will be your name'— ³² and he built an altar with the stones in the name of the Lord. Then he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold about four gal-

lons. ³³ Next, he arranged the wood, cut up the bull, and placed it on the wood. He said, 'Fill four water pots with water and pour it on the offering to be burned and on the wood.' ³⁴ Then he said, 'A second time!' and they did it a second time. And then he said, 'A third time!' and they did it a third time. ³⁵ So the water ran all around the altar; he even filled the trench with water.

³⁶ At the time for offering the evening sacrifice, the prophet Elijah approached the altar and said, 'Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, today let it be known that you are God in Israel and I am your servant, and that at your word I have done all these things. ³⁷ Answer me, Lord! Answer me so that this people will know that you, the Lord, are God and that you have turned their hearts back.'

³⁸ Then the Lord's fire fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. ³⁹ When all the people saw it, they fell facedown and said, 'The Lord, he is God! The Lord, he is God!'"



POWER|FULL EXALTATION

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

CELEBRATION: Share how our last life group impacted your week?



COMPONENTS

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Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

CELEBRATION

Recognizing what God has done in our group

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

TAKEAWAY

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to praise God and share our requests and needs

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to **Matthew 18**

Lets get started...

The meaning of exaltation is to raise to a higher level in rank, honor, power, character, quality, and to elevate something or someone. Oftentimes in the Bible, exaltation of the Father is referred to as an act of worship. In 1 Kings, we see Elijah being constant in his faithfulness to God. He is so confident in God's power and sovereignty that he calls a showdown between the prophets of Baal, the god of fertility and rain, and God Almighty. Of course in today's story, we will see the outcome, but one thing to notice is the way in which Elijah speaks to God. He consistently worships Him and exalts Him above all gods and creation.

H.....

Exalting the Father is not the act of checking a box on Sunday mornings; it is a way of life. It is the reason we as Christians do what we do. We have the option of exalting and worshipping ourselves, or we can carry out the act for our very existence, which is to exalt and bring glory to God. Jesus modeled perfectly what it looked like to exalt the Father in all circumstances. We must look to this model and lift up the name of the Father, bringing glory to Him in all we think, do, and say. Today we will see Elijah challenging the people to not hesitate between two opinions. "If the Lord is God, follow him. But if Baal, follow him." We must also choose who we will live for, who we will exalt. We must dedicate our lives to shine the light on the Father through our life priorities.

U

As you are listening today, be thinking of who you relate to most in the story and why.



KEY VERSE

1 Kings 18:21

"How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him. But if Baal, follow him."

SUMMARY

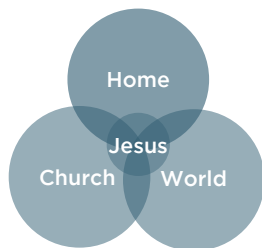
False gods are silent because they are not real, but God is real in every way

Staying in our comfort zone and doing what pleases us is worship to a false god — ourselves

Worshipping anything but God is dangerous, causing us to depend on things that are sure to fail us.

Calling on anything but God offers no answers, guidance, or wisdom

Who's your ONE?



LIFECIRCLES

TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

ELIJAH CALLS ON GOD

1 KINGS 18:20-39



For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



What was Elijah trying to prove in this story?

How did the prophets of Baal respond to Elijah's challenge?

How did God respond?



Why do you find it hard to exalt the Father?

Who do you relate to most in this story and why?

Share of a time that exalting the Father impacted your life?



Make a conscious effort this week to start out your prayers and even conversations with others, exalting the Father.

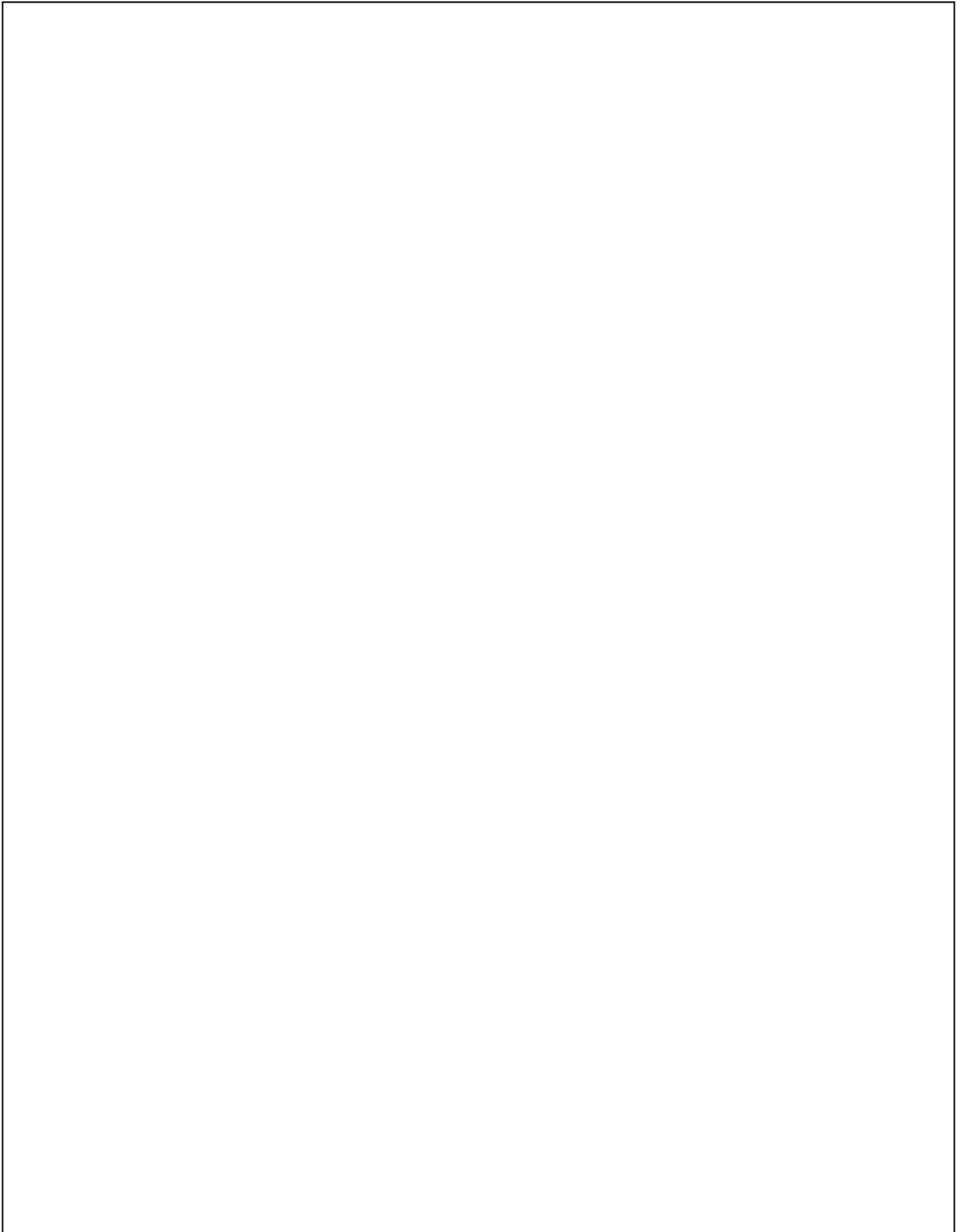
PRAYER REQUESTS:



CLOSING PRAYER: _____



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP



Matthew 9:9-13

⁹ As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the toll booth, and he said to him, 'Follow me,' and he got up and followed him.

¹⁰ While he was reclining at the table in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came to eat with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?'

¹² Now when he heard this, he said, 'It is not those who are well who need a doctor, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means: I desire mercy and not sacrifice. For I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners.'



POWER|FULL RELATIONSHIPS

COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

CELEBRATION

Recognizing what God has done in our group

TOPIC

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CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to **Matthew 18**

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

CELEBRATION: Share how our last life group impacted your week?



Lets get started...

Jesus had been traveling all throughout Galilee, teaching the crowds and healing the sick. When He encountered those who He chose for His disciples, He would ask them to follow Him. Although Jesus, being the son of God, was perfect, the men He chose to be His disciples were far from perfect. As a matter of fact, He would intentionally choose those who were outcasts from society and not religious leaders or those who "had it all together." In today's story, we see the calling of Matthew, a tax collector. He left his toll booth with only his pen, abandoning his livelihood and all that he ever knew. Unlike several other disciples who could always go back to fishing, there was no turning back for Matthew.

H
.....

Relationships are so important to God. So much so that it goes all the way back to Genesis in the garden when God said it was not good for man to be alone, so He made him a suitable helper. But one thing we know is that sin, which also started in the garden, has infiltrated the heart of man. God has given all those who believe in Him the authority in His name to be an ambassador to others who do not know God. We also know that God values relationships greatly because in the New Testament, Jesus tells us that all the law and prophets hinge on two commands: love God and love others. In today's society, there is such a brokenness when it comes to relationships of any kind. But God's desire for us is to chase the strays, bind the hurting, and connect the unconnected.

U



As you are listening today, be thinking of how you are trying to protect your own reputation by not sharing the gospel.

KEY VERSE

Matthew 9:13

“Go and learn what this means: I desire mercy and not sacrifice. For I didn’t come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God’s Word as best as you can without teaching. You don’t have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

JESUS EATS WITH SINNERS

MATTHEW 9:9-13



For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.

SUMMARY

Sometimes the decision to follow Christ requires difficult or painful choices

We should never fear reaching out to people who are living in sin

The Gospel changes people and their friends, too

God’s love extends even to those who are hurting and living in sin



Matthew’s profession as a tax collector was not a popular one, so why would Jesus choose him to be one of His disciples?

What do we learn about Jesus’ heart for non-believers?

What does Jesus mean by, “I desire mercy and not sacrifice”?

What lifestyle or influence did Jesus save you from?



Why is it hard to share what Jesus has done for us with non-believers when all God has called us to do is love Him and love others?

In what ways are you trying to control the image others see of you by not sharing the gospel?



How can you lay down your self image and/or reputation this week to be influential and godly character to those in your LIFE Circles?

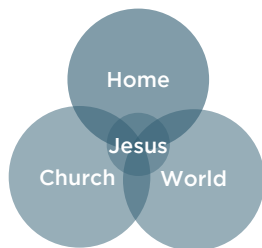


PRAYER REQUESTS:



CLOSING PRAYER: _____

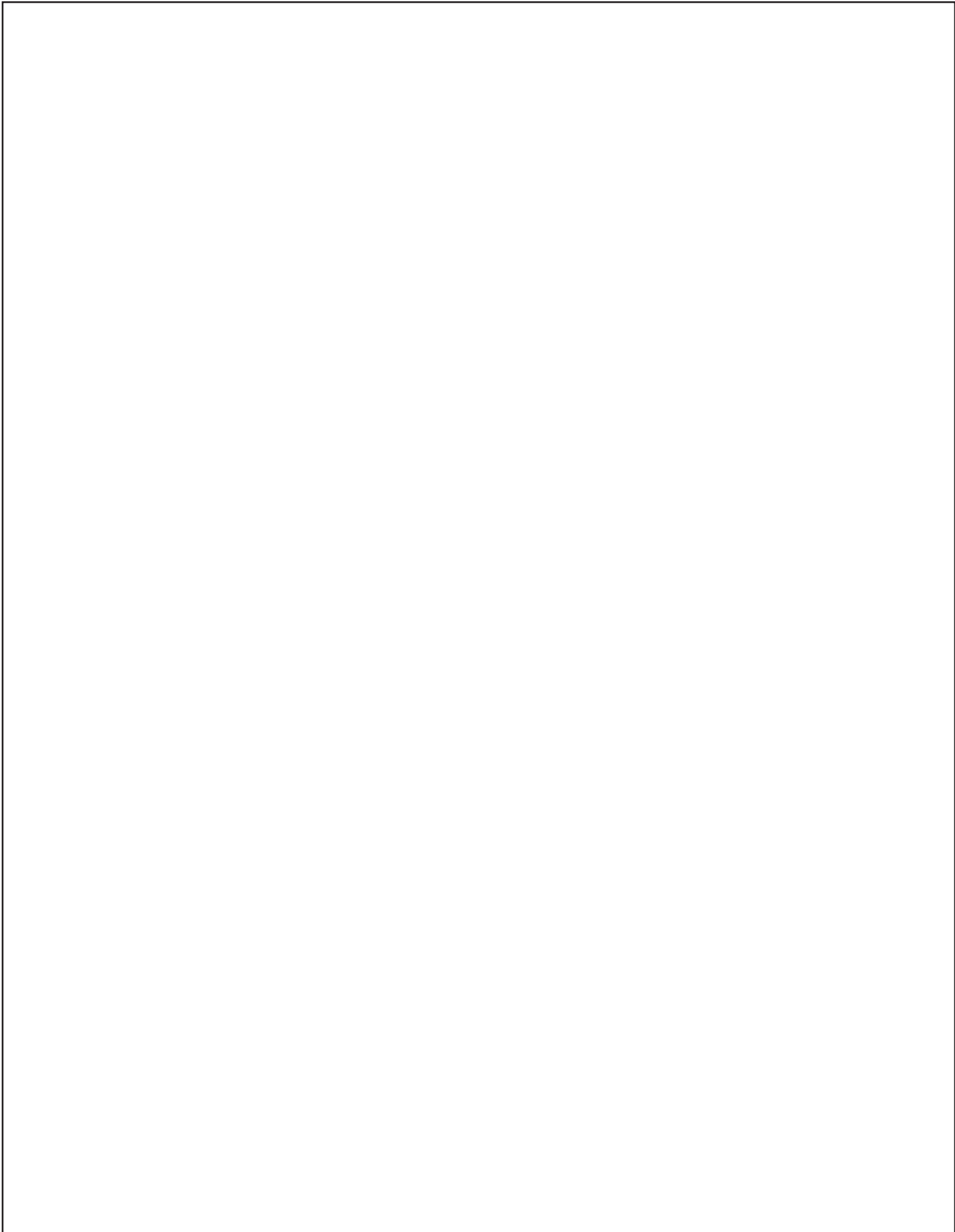
Who’s your ONE?



LIFECIRCLES



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP



Acts 1:1-8

"I wrote the first narrative, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After he had suffered, he also presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴ While he was with them, he commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Father's promise. 'Which,' he said, 'you have heard me speak about; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days.'

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?'

⁷ He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.'"



POWER|FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

CELEBRATION: Share how our last life group impacted your week?



COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

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ICEBREAKER

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CELEBRATION

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LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to **Matthew 18**

Lets get started...

Today's story takes place at the end of the forty day period when Jesus appeared to His disciples and many crowds, proving that He was indeed alive after His death and resurrection. He knew He was going to ascend to Heaven and didn't want to leave His church to battle this world of darkness alone. Jesus was going to send His Holy Spirit, empowering those who believed in Him to boldly spread the gospel to all people and nations. Jesus began His church with a group of unqualified, ordinary people with spotted pasts and imperfections who desired to change the world!

H.....

As Christians, we sometimes forget our purpose and get stuck in the minutia of daily life. We get up, go to work, come home, and go to bed, only to repeat it all the next day. But when Jesus was here on earth, everything He did was intentional. He knew He only had a few short years to teach those who would listen and believe according to His Word. We often forget that our purpose is to bring God glory in all that we say and do. Jesus specifically gave us His Holy Spirit when He ascended to Heaven so that we could know how to live holy lives, pleasing God and bringing Him glory. So how do we learn to listen to that still small voice that is constantly guiding us on the right path? No matter where we are or what we are doing, God's Holy Spirit is there to help us, counsel us, and direct us. All we have to do is be still and listen.

U

As you are listening today, think of what this passage means to you as a Christian in today's culture.



KEY VERSE

Acts 1:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

SUMMARY

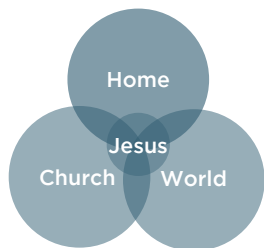
As a believer, God's presence and power resides in us through the person of the Holy Spirit

Believing in Jesus as your Savior means you can experience the power of the Holy Spirit

The early church started a movement that we are continuing twenty centuries later

The work of the Holy Spirit personifies the supernatural power in Christianity

Who's your ONE?



LIFECIRCLES

TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

JESUS TAKEN TO HEAVEN
ACTS 1:1-8



12 MIN

For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



What was the Father's promise that Jesus was speaking about?

Why was it important for Jesus to leave?

What did Jesus tell the disciples He wanted them to do?

What does this passage mean for you as a Christian in today's culture?



What part does the Holy Spirit play in your life when it comes to His great commission in vs. 8?

How are your listening skills when it comes to seeking the Holy Spirit in all that you do?



This week, share with someone in your LIFE Circles how spiritual disciplines have changed your life.

45 MIN

PRAYER REQUESTS:

10 MIN

CLOSING PRAYER: _____



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

Living a POWER|full LIFE

6 FOUNDATIONAL PRIORITIES

PRAYER

Jesus' ministry had a priority on prayer from beginning to end.

OBEDIENCE

Jesus modeled obedience in every area of His life, from obedience to His earthly parents to His Heavenly Father, even in suffering.

WORD

God's word was central in Jesus' life. He used the Word in everyday issues of life, and scripture was always on His lips.

EXALTING THE FATHER

Christ consistently modeled a pattern of exalting His Heavenly Father. He acknowledged that everything He had came from God and continually claimed He could do nothing on His own but only through God living in Him.

RELATIONSHIP

Jesus modeled intentional relationships of love and integrity with His disciples.

FULLY DEPENDANT ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

Every aspect of Jesus' life and ministry was saturated with the Spirit of God.

Jesus invested heavily in the disciples. The disciples had a false view of God and how to live life, just like you and me. Jesus spent a year and a half un-teaching the lies they believed and the bad habits they had adopted. He taught them how to really live (Mat. 11:29-30). He taught them how to re-orient their lives to fully experience the Kingdom of God. His teaching is summed up in 6 Foundational Priorities:

PRAYER

Throughout Jesus' ministry, he modeled prayer. In fact, His ministry began in prayer and ended in prayer. Jesus was constantly praying, the busier He was the more He prayed. Through prayer He was able to worship and praise the Father. Prayer was such a significant part of Christ's life that the only time you see his disciples say "teach us", is when they said, "Lord teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). Even the slow learning disciples recognized that the uniqueness and strength of Christ's life was based upon His walk with His Heavenly Father in prayer. In Acts 2:42, the early church recognized the need for prayer in their life and ministry. (Luke 4:1, Mark 6:31, Luke 6:12, Luke 23:46)

PRAYERFULLY DEPENDANT

- Prayer Provides Direction (Luke 3:21-23)
- Prayer must be a Daily Routine (Luke 5:16)
- Prayer for Life Decisions (Mark 1:32-39)
- Prayer during Struggles (Mat. 14:3-14)
- Prayer for Loved Ones (John 13:1-2; John 17)

OBEDIENCE

Jesus modeled the importance of obedience to His Father's will. Jesus was obedient throughout His life. At an early age He demonstrated what it meant to be obedient at the temple. He showed obedience towards his parents and His Heavenly Father. He was obedient even to the cross as He willingly gave Himself. (John 20:21) "As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."

OBEDIENT TO THE KINGDOM AGENDA

- As a Young Boy (Luke 2:51-52)
- As a Young Man (Luke 2:49)
- Through Suffering (Heb. 5:8)

WORD

Jesus modeled his knowledge of the Word and applied it in every aspect of His life. He studied and used Scripture in His life and ministry. He quoted Scripture as he encountered everyday issues of life. He even challenged the Sadducees and Pharisees about Old Testament. Jesus knew God's Word.

WORD CENTERED

- Studied the Scriptures (Luke 2:46-48)
- Trusted the Scriptures (Mat. 22:31-32)
- Submitted to the Scriptures (Mark 9:12-13)
- Used the Scriptures (Mat. 4:4; 19:3-6)

MATTHEW 4:19-20 ¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

EXALTING THE FATHER

Jesus modeled the pattern for exalting the Father in every area of life. He repeatedly acknowledged the Father in his ministry. Jesus said in John 8:28, “...I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.” How we live our life comes from the understanding of God’s character; we do because of who He is and what He has done for us.

EXALTING THE FATHER

- Pattern of Life (John 7:16-18)
- Position in Christ (John 3:21; Eph 1-3)
- Performance versus Grace (Mat. 3:17; Gal. 3:3)

RELATIONSHIPS

Jesus modeled intentional relationships throughout His life. He built relationships with a broad base of people. From those relationships He pursued and engaged in a deeper relationship with a few people. Jesus invested over one and half years with his disciples, because relationally based ministry built upon His life would take time, but it would be worth the effort. Love was the basis of His relationship. Paul reflected on this principal in 1 Thessalonians 2:8 “So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.”

INTENTIONAL LOVING RELATIONSHIPS

- Taking Time (John 3:22)
- Loving People (1 Cor. 13:4-7)
- Friend of Sinners (Mat. 9:10-13)

FULLY DEPENDANT ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus modeled full dependence on the Holy Spirit. Every aspect of Jesus’ life and ministry was saturated with the Holy Spirit. He was conceived by the power of the Spirit (Luke 1:35), His childhood was guided by the Spirit (Luke 2:40), His ministry was led by the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:14), and His church reproduced by the power of the Spirit (Acts 9:31). “Jesus is living proof of how those who are his followers may exceed the limitations of their humanness in order that they, like Him, might carry the completion against all odds their God-given mission in life - by the Holy Spirit.” (Gerald Hawthorne)

HOLY SPIRIT POWERED

- The Holy Spirit Provides Growth (Col. 2:13; Rom. 8:9-14)
- The Holy Spirit Provides Guidance (Luke 4:1)
- The Holy Spirit Provides Power (Luke 4:14)
- The Holy Spirit Provides Joy (John 3:34; Luke 10:21)

6

FOUNDATIONAL PRIORITIES

PRAYER

Jesus’ ministry had a priority on prayer from beginning to end.

OBEDIENCE

Jesus modeled obedience in every area of His life, from obedience to His earthly parents to His Heavenly Father, even in suffering.

WORD

God’s word was central in Jesus’ life. He used the Word in everyday issues of life, and scripture was always on His lips.

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Christ consistently modeled a pattern of exalting His Heavenly Father. He acknowledged that everything He had came from God and continually claimed He could do nothing on His own but only through God living in Him.

RELATIONSHIP

Jesus modeled intentional relationships of love and integrity with His disciples.

FULLY DEPENDANT ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

Every aspect of Jesus’ life and ministry was saturated with the Spirit of God.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION IDEAS: (QUICK ONES ARE IN BOLD)

1. If you could be a fly on a wall, where would you most want to be?
2. **What is your favorite soda?**
3. What was it like the first time I spoke in public?
4. **If you were a magazine, which one would you be?**
5. **If you could be a fictitious superhero, who would you be? Or what super power would you most want?**
6. Greatest peer pressure as an adult?
7. Where do you feel closest to God?
8. **What is your favorite music genre?**
9. How do you react when people sing "Happy Birthday" to you in a restaurant?
10. When did you last sing to yourself? To someone else?
11. **Who is your favorite singer?**
12. **What is your favorite musical instrument?**
13. What is at the top of your bucket list?
14. What is usually the first thing that comes to your mind when you think about God?
15. How would you describe God to a child?
16. What color best describes you and why?
17. What was the high point of last week? The low point?
18. **What one word would be your theme for the year?**
19. Name one person who has had the biggest impact in your life and why?
20. If I knew I had only one year to live, I would spend it...
21. **If I could visit any place in the world, it would be...**
22. If I had a million dollars to spend for the benefit of mankind...
23. The thing that causes me the greatest satisfaction is...
24. Wallet/Purse scavenger hunt: The most worthless item? - The most priceless item? - The most revealing item? - The most memorable item? - etc.
25. What is your favorite memory as a child?
26. Share something you fear.
27. How old were you when you learned to ride a bike, what was that experience like?
28. When in your life, if ever, did God become more than a word to you?
29. What's your most embarrassing moment?
30. Describe an experience when the Holy Spirit has been your comforter.
31. When was the first time you became aware that God loves you?
32. What are your strongest convictions about God?
33. **If you could hear God say one thing to you, what would that be?**
34. **If you could see God standing in front of you, what one thing would you most want to say to Him?**
35. **What single question would you most want God to answer for you if He would?**
36. Describe the person you have known whom you felt knew God most intimately.
37. What would you do if heavy persecution came on you/your family?
38. What would you do with an extra free day off of work?
39. Where would you go if you could go anywhere in the world?
40. **If you could become an animal for one day, which one would it be?**
41. **What is one secret place in your house that you only clean on special occasions (like mother-in-law visiting)?**
42. Whom do you admire the most? In what ways does that person inspire you?
43. If you knew your time was cut short, what's one thing you'd change about the way you are now living?
44. If you could be famous, what would you be famous for?
45. What do you strive for the most in your life - ie: accomplishment, security, love, power, excitement, knowledge, etc?
46. If you could go back in time and not return, what would you try to accomplish even if you knew you might change the course of history?
47. **How many of your friendships have lasted more than ten years?**
48. If someone were to write a book about you, what do you think the title and theme would be?
49. What things make your life complicated?
50. **In one line what is life all about?**
51. If your animals could talk, what would they tell you?
52. What would be the greatest birthday present of all time?
53. **Give three words to describe how you feel right now.**
54. If you could hang a motto or saying in every home in the world, what would it be?
55. Which emoji best describes you and why?
56. **What was the make / model / year / color of your first car?**
57. What's your biggest pet peeve?
58. **What's your first name and an adjective that starts with the same first letter, that best describes you? (ie: Carl:Caring)**
59. Favorite Christmas Carol and why?
60. If you could have coffee with anyone in the history of ever, who would it be and why?

EXPLANATION OF LIFE GROUP ICONS

As you begin to journey through the LIFE Group curriculum, you may see some icons that are unfamiliar to you. Below is a list of common icons that are used in GMBC curriculum.



CLOCK - The clock is just a reminder of how long you should be spending on each section in order to complete the curriculum in a timely fashion, honoring the LIFE Group members as well as the Host.



HISTORY - The history is basically a transition piece as to where we are in God's Word. It allows us to get up to speed on what was happening just before our current story.



HOOK - The hook is a focus piece that helps your LIFE Group to be thinking of the theme of the story before it is told.



TELL THE STORY - Orality is the most effective way of telling a story over any other method. Have a preselected group member tell the story from God's Word as best as they can without teaching. Try not to express opinions or point out specifics in the story. Just tell the story. The main objective is to learn the story, not to memorize it word for word. It is ok to mess up when telling the story.

IMPORTANT: ALL BIBLES SHOULD REMAIN CLOSED FOR THIS PART.



REBUILD THE STORY - At this time, everyone can open their Bibles to the given passage or story set. Have the group rebuild the story from beginning to end by asking questions. (eg: "Where was he going?", "Who was Jesus talking to?", "And then what did he do?") Have the group look for what may have been added or left out.



CHECK THE STORY - Use Bibles to read the passage out loud, word for word, so that it is read accurately and in its entirety.



HEAD - (Knowledge) —Head level questions are asked to discover God's Word, in its raw form, as a group.



HEART - (Character) — Heart level questions are to prompt you to look deeper into your heart and answer sincerely from the core of your being. Remember to use "I" statements when answering heart questions.



HANDS - (Action)— Hand level questions are designed to help you see how you can use what you've learned from God's Word and take it outside the four walls of group into your daily life.

COMPONENTS OF A LIFE GROUP

WELCOME

- Makes new believers, visitors, and members feel valued and welcomed
- Begins with our phone calls, continues as they enter our homes, and until they leave
- Establishes a foundation for relationships
- Makes them aware of what's going on and brings focus

OPENING PRAYER

- Invites God's Holy Spirit into our presence
- Prepares our hearts for what God has for us
- Shifts our attention from individual fellowship to the group

PURPOSE

- Express the purpose of why we are meeting as a LIFE Group (to make disciples, reach the lost, connect the unconnected, etc.)
- Helps prepare our hearts and minds for the group
- Must be in alignment with Glen Meadows Vision and Mission

GROUND RULES

- Establishes agreed upon boundaries for a healthy group
- Establishes a safe environment where everyone can share openly and honestly
- Provides biblical guidance for healthy conflict resolution

ICEBREAKER

- Activity that sets the stage for transparency and trust
- Helps create a safe environment and levels the playing field
- May involve low-risk participation
- Game, Testimony, Question, etc
- Celebrating the "wins" and what God is doing through our group

TOPIC/STORY

- This is the "meat" of the group
- Story from God's Word

CLOSING PRAYER

- Re-Focuses our attention to God and His provision
- Personal requests, Group needs, Praise God

PLACES TO PLAY

- Providing others with opportunities to lead by assigning them with components, builds confidence, and models servant leadership and reproducibility

GROUND RULES

WHY GROUND RULES?

Many of us find ourselves cringing when the subject of rules come up. Rules can often indicate limits or restrictions that impede our desired actions. The ground rules we will abide by are specifically designed to give freedom rather than restrictions. It is our desire that through effective ground rules each person will feel the freedom to share from their hearts, feel the assurance of confidence, and experience a group willing to listen. When interacting as a group, we can find ourselves checking out or shutting down for the smallest of reasons. Being aware of our impact on each other is paramount for a safe environment.

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY:

We will all do our part to create an environment where everyone can be real, open, and honest with our struggles and victories. What is said in the group stays in the group.

NO FIXING OTHERS:

Try to hear what people are sharing without trying to fix them. If they want your advice, they'll ask for it. If people think that as soon as they share a problem or issue everyone is going to immediately try to fix them (offer advice/solutions), often they simply won't share at all.

LISTEN & PAUSE

Let's value one another during the discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Don't think about what you're going to say next or how you're going to respond; really listen. After someone shares, give a pause to allow the group to feel the weight of what is being shared and fully consider it before the next person shares. This pause also gives the person time to reflect a little deeper while continuing to share more. Remember, SILENCE IS OK. It gives time for reflection and others to begin sharing.

DON'T RESCUE:

When people are sharing something deeply personal and painful, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or the situation. Often this will cause people to stop sharing and result in not going as deep as they intended. Resist the temptation to rescue people. We must be sensitive to what the Holy Spirit is doing in their life.

USE "I" STATEMENTS:

It's easy to talk about the issues of others; in LIFE Groups we will use "I" statements. We will try to avoid words such as "them," "the church," "us," "we," "he/she," etc. Using "I" statements helps us to focus on what God is doing in our lives and gives us opportunity to self-reflect. This allows maximum potential for effectual change in our lives.

NO CROSS TALK:

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, texting, or phone calls. Cross talk devalues the person sharing and communicates that they are not as important as what you may be doing. (Be sensitive to those with cell phones—kids, family issues, on-call at work). Remember, when going over the Ground Rules in your group, give those who may be on-call or have children the opportunity to communicate that they may need to take a call or text during group.

STAY ON TOPIC:

Much time and prayer is put into the determination of the biblical direction our church is headed. We must value the importance of that direction in taking it to a heart level in our LIFE Groups during the week. In addition, LIFE Group leaders prepare according to this direction and the topic for each lesson. Rabbit trails may devalue the unity as well as what the Lord is doing in our church body. In honoring each individual's time & schedules, please try to stay on topic with every group question. Rabbit trails can also add time to the end of the LIFE Group and does not honor others in our group who may need to get to their families and/or may need rest for the next day's busy schedule.

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK:

We all have a story or response to share, making it important that we value each other during LIFE Group. Sometimes we may find ourselves overtalking out of nervousness or even habit. However, to honor each person and their time, we must do our part by keeping our own talk time limited and to the point, giving each person an opportunity to interact.

ADDITIONAL NOTES / PRAYER REQUESTS

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