

# Life Group Curriculum

Fall 2017



# Content Overview

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august

14	GM College: Kick-Off
16	GM Youth: Splash Day
19	GM Singles BBQ
20	LIFE Group Launch
23	GM Youth Kick-Off
25	Parent's Night Out

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september

3	No Evening Service
4	GM Offices Closed
6	Awana Kick-Off
9	GM College: Ram Jam
10	101 Starting Point
10	Lord's Supper (Evening Service)
16	GM Women: Beth Moore Simulcast
22	Parent's Night Out
23	GM Men: Sight In Day
24	GM Annual Meeting
27	See You at the Pole
27	GM Youth: 4th Quarter

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october

1	201 Next Steps Class
8	Lord's Supper (Evening Service)
10-18	GM Missions: East Asia
11	GM Youth: Fields of Faith
14	GM Women: Ladies Brunch
15	101 Starting Point
20-22	GM Youth: D-NOW
21	GM Men: Men's Breakfast
22	No Evening Service
22	CVBA Annual Meeting
27	Parent's Night Out
29	Harvest Festival

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november

4	GM Missions: Cook Turkeys for Fabens
5	GM Quarterly Meeting
11	GM Women: Holiday Bazaar
11	Deliver Turkeys to Fabens, TX
12	Lord's Supper (Evening Service)
17	Parent's Night Out
19	Thanksgiving Celebration and Auction
22-23	GM Offices Closed
23	Thanksgiving
23-25	Cooking Turkeys for Hands of Luke
26	No Evening Service



**John 3:16-18**

“For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world that He might condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. <sup>18</sup> Anyone who believes in Him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the One and Only Son of God.



# love

## 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 God is working in and around your life circles.



## Lets get started...

Jesus had just begun His ministry years teaching, performing miracles, and ministering to people as He traveled throughout Israel. Although He oftentimes would confront religious leaders who were misinterpreting and twisting God's laws, He would also provide Jews and Gentiles alike new teachings about Himself, using parables and sharing straight forward truths that demonstrated His Father's love, mercy, grace, and compassion. This put the Pharisees and Sadducees into a tailspin, turning all they ever thought they exclusively knew into a gospel of peace and salvation for anyone and everyone.



John 3:16 is quite possibly the best known verse in Christian Scripture. Although it is widely used in many environments, it takes all three verses (John 3:16-18) to fully grasp the balance of this theological summary concerning salvation. Only when they are all read together can we really get the full meaning of Jesus' coming and salvation message.



God is so gracious in displaying to all humanity a sense of freedom in which we are required to make a choice. Oftentimes we feel as if we must work our way to heaven or we must quickly say a little prayer to secure our "hell insurance". However, God is much more concerned about our personal relationship with Him. Just as a parent wouldn't want to go through life without ever talking to their child or spending time with them, God desires that we know Him on an intimate level. So much so that He has breathed life into His Holy Word and the greatest love story of all time just for us.

*As you are listening to today's passage, be thinking of how you display love for God based on the way you treat others.*



# love

## KEY VERSE

### John 3:16

“For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.”

## SUMMARY

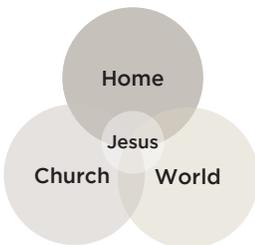
Knowledge alone is not salvation

When we don't know Christ, we make choices as if this life is all we have

To “believe” is more than a head decision that Jesus is God

To “believe” is to put Christ in charge of our present plans and eternal destiny

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## LIFE Circles

TELL THE STORY: \_\_\_\_\_

## GOD'S LOVE FOR US JOHN 3:16-18



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



What do these verses say about God's love for us?

What do we learn about Jesus?

What do we learn about ourselves?

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What does your personal salvation cost you compared to what it cost God?

Compare and contrast the love described in this passage to the way today's culture defines love.

If someone were to define the way you love God by how you treat others, what would they say?

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What are some new ways you can love those closest to you this week?

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

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CLOSING PRAYER: \_\_\_\_\_



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP



## **John 3:1-21**

“There was a man from the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> This man came to Him at night and said, ‘Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher, for no one could perform these signs You do unless God were with him.’

<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, ‘I assure you: Unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’

<sup>4</sup> ‘But how can anyone be born when he is old?’ Nicodemus asked Him. ‘Can he enter his mother’s womb a second time and be born?’

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, ‘I assure you: Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit.

<sup>7</sup> Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again. <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.’

<sup>9</sup> ‘How can these things be?’ asked Nicodemus.

<sup>10</sup> ‘Are you a teacher of Israel and don’t know these things?’ Jesus replied. <sup>11</sup> ‘I assure you: We speak what We know and We testify to what We have seen, but you do not accept Our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about things that happen on earth and you don’t believe, how will you believe if I tell you about things of heaven? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the One who descended from heaven—the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> so that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> ‘For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world that He might condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. <sup>18</sup> Anyone who believes in Him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the One and Only Son of God.

<sup>19</sup> ‘This, then, is the judgment: The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone who practices wicked things hates the light and avoids it, so that his deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But anyone who lives by the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be shown to be accomplished by God.’”



# invest

## 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...

As we learned in last week's lesson, Jesus' ministry years were spent teaching, performing miracles, and ministering to people as He traveled throughout Israel. Jesus showed the loving and merciful side of the Father yet displayed a righteous anger when His house was being used as a marketplace. People were being shown the humanity of Jesus as He laid the foundation of how He wants us to live our lives daily, creating a legacy of disciples who make disciples by living life together.



Many people have gone through life never having a deep relationship with someone, either investing in someone or being invested into. Maybe you are in this boat where you long for a relationship that is deep and intimate. Maybe you long for someone who will just listen and care about you on a level that nobody else ever has; someone who will speak hard truths to you in love and you come out stronger and tighter than before. Everyday we come into contact with people who are lonely and have so many unanswered questions about life, yet for whatever reason, we "talk about the weather" and pass them by without any deep conversation. We use excuses to thwart any one-on-one time with someone, excuses like "I'm too busy" or "They don't have time for me". But the truth is, when you make that time for others, time for intentional relationship and discipleship, you find that you needed them just as much as they needed you.



*As you are listening to today's story, be thinking of specific ways you can begin investing into others.*



# invest

## KEY VERSE

John 3:11-12

“I assure you: We speak what We know and We testify to what We have seen, but you do not accept Our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about things that happen on earth and you don’t believe, how will you believe if I tell you about things of heaven?”

## SUMMARY

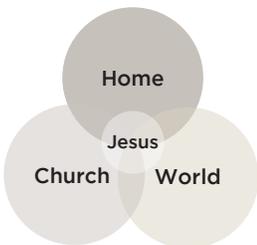
God is able to change those who we may think are unchangeable

God is patient yet persistent

When we make ourselves available to God, He uses us

Knowledge alone is not salvation

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## LIFE Circles

TELL THE STORY: \_\_\_\_\_

## JESUS TEACHES NICODEMUS JOHN 3:1-21



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



What does Jesus mean by “You must be born again”?

Although Nicodemus was well educated, in what ways did Jesus invest in to him?

According to this passage, what is the most important thing we can invest in to others?

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Think of someone in your life who has invested in to you. What are some methods they used that you responded to the best?

What are your greatest fears in either investing in to someone else or having someone invest in to you?

What are some specific ways you can invest in to others?

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Think of someone that you really admire their maturity in Christ. Pray this week about asking that person to invest in to you.

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

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CLOSING PRAYER: \_\_\_\_\_



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP



**Hebrews 10:19-25**

“<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers, since we have boldness to enter the sanctuary through the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way He has opened for us through the curtain (that is, His flesh), <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not staying away from our worship meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”



# fellowship

## COMPONENTS

### WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

### OPENING PRAYER

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### PURPOSE

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### GROUND RULES

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### ICEBREAKER

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### 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...

God's word is very clear about the importance of fellowship with other believers. We see in 1 Corinthians that as Christians, we are all one body made of many parts; parts that do not have the same function. We all have a part to play in God's ultimate plan. No part is greater than the other, and most parts of the body cannot function without other parts. We can find this message all throughout Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, Colossians and the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). Jesus modeled to us the value of meeting together as one body. Paul writes in Romans that there are many gifts that we have been given, such as prophecy, service, teaching, encouragement, generosity, leadership, and mercy, but without God's Holy Spirit, we can do none of these things diligently. In today's scripture, we will see the importance of meeting together as one body and how we can move forward together to make an impact in God's Kingdom.



Oftentimes we will hear someone say "I don't need to go to church to be a Christian," or "I can worship anywhere," "The woods, lake, or easy chair is my church." Church attendance has decreased over the years as most people don't feel like they have a need to go or other things have taken the place of the time spent going to church. But God's Word clearly emphasizes the importance, significance, and necessity of being a part of the body of Christ. We have heard it said that "we go to church so that we can be the church." Just as a sports team must huddle together and come up with a game plan, practice that plan, and then execute that plan, we as Christians come together at a church to huddle and go over His "game plan" so that we can go out and be the hands and feet of Jesus to a lost and dying world. What part are you going to play on the team?



*As you are listening to today's story, be thinking of what part God wants you to play in His greater plan.*



# fellowship

## KEY VERSE

Hebrews 10:24-25a

“And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not staying away from our worship meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other”

## SUMMARY

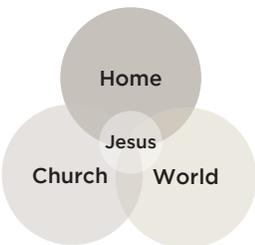
“Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there among them”  
-Mt 18:20

Together, we are the body of Christ

We go to church so that we can be the church

As hard times arise, we should make an even greater effort to meet as one body

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## LIFE Circles

TELL THE STORY: \_\_\_\_\_

### FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS HEBREWS 10:19-25



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



According to this scripture, what are some significant privileges we have once we are in Christ?

What do we learn from vs. 24 & 25?

How does this passage describe Jesus' view on fellowship of believers?

What are some areas of your life where you can fellowship more with other believers?



What part does God want you to play in His greater plan?

What are some gifts God has given you that will serve in making disciples?



Pray this week about how God wants you to get more connected with His people?

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

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CLOSING PRAYER: \_\_\_\_\_



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

## John 4:1-42

<sup>4</sup> When Jesus knew that the Pharisees heard He was making and baptizing more disciples than John <sup>2</sup> (though Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were), <sup>3</sup> He left Judea and went again to Galilee. <sup>4</sup> He had to travel through Samaria, <sup>5</sup> so He came to a town of Samaria called Sychar near the property that Jacob had given his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, worn out from His journey, sat down at the well. It was about six in the evening.

<sup>7</sup> A woman of Samaria came to draw water.

'Give Me a drink,' Jesus said to her, <sup>8</sup> for His disciples had gone into town to buy food.

<sup>9</sup> 'How is it that You, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?' she asked Him. For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, "Give Me a drink," you would ask Him, and He would give you living water.'

<sup>11</sup> 'Sir,' said the woman, 'You don't even have a bucket, and the well is deep. So where do You get this "living water"?' <sup>12</sup> You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are You? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and livestock.'

<sup>13</sup> Jesus said, 'Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. <sup>14</sup> But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again—ever! In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up within him for eternal life.'

<sup>15</sup> 'Sir,' the woman said to Him, 'give me this water so I won't get thirsty and come here to draw water.'

<sup>16</sup> 'Go call your husband,' He told her, 'and come back here.'

<sup>17</sup> 'I don't have a husband,' she answered.

'You have correctly said, "I don't have a husband,"' Jesus said. <sup>18</sup> 'For you've had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.'

<sup>19</sup> 'Sir,' the woman replied, 'I see that You are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, yet you Jews say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem.'

<sup>21</sup> Jesus told her, 'Believe Me, woman, an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.'

<sup>25</sup> The woman said to Him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When He comes, He will explain everything to us.'

<sup>26</sup> 'I am He,' Jesus told her, 'the One speaking to you.'

<sup>27</sup> Just then His disciples arrived, and they were amazed that He was talking with a woman. Yet no one said, 'What do You want?' or 'Why are You talking with her?'

<sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar, went into town, and told the men, <sup>29</sup> 'Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could this be the Messiah?' <sup>30</sup> They left the town and made their way to Him.

<sup>31</sup> In the meantime the disciples kept urging Him, 'Rabbi, eat something.'

<sup>32</sup> But He said, 'I have food to eat that you don't know about.'

<sup>33</sup> The disciples said to one another, 'Could someone have brought Him something to eat?'

<sup>34</sup> 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work,' Jesus told them. <sup>35</sup> 'Don't you say, "There are still four more months, then comes the harvest"? Listen to what I'm telling you: Open your eyes and look at the fields, for they are ready for harvest. <sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving pay and gathering fruit for eternal life, so the sower and reaper can rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> For in this case the saying is true: "One sows and another reaps." <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap what you didn't labor for; others have labored, and you have benefited from their labor.'

<sup>39</sup> Now many Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of what the woman said when she testified, 'He told me everything I ever did.' <sup>40</sup> Therefore, when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them, and He stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> Many more believed because of what He said. <sup>42</sup> And they told the woman, 'We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this really is the Savior of the world.'



# engage

## 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...

Jesus and His disciples had been at the Judean countryside where He spent time with them and baptized many. The people in Aenon were confused and began to question John the Baptist about why people were flocking to Jesus and He was baptizing them. John set the record straight telling the people that he himself was not the Messiah but that he had been sent ahead of Him and that those who refused to believe in the Son would not see life. After this, Jesus left Judea and headed toward Galilee. On His way, He stopped in Samaria, which was a place most Jews would avoid. Samaria was known to be a place of defilement, so when traveling, Jewish people would bypass it, taking a longer, less direct route across the Jordan River. But Jesus did not move in response to human pressure but as a result of the Father's direction. So He went straight through the outlawed city, and this is where we begin our story today.



Jesus was quite clear in his departing words before he ascended to heaven, "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, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt 28:19-20) But it seems as Christians, once we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we become silent and are afraid to tell others about Him. God has given us a spirit of boldness and desires that none should perish, which tells us that we must share the gospel to a lost and dying world. We must engage our community and the world around us in our life circles as if today is our last day here on earth. In today's story, we will see Jesus encounter a sinful woman who he tells about His Living Word. She then, in excitement, goes and tells her whole town so that they may come to know Him, too.



*As you're listening to today's story, be thinking about things that may be holding you back from sharing the gospel.*



# engage

## KEY VERSE

John 4:24

“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

## SUMMARY

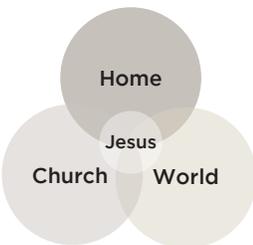
God’s word is fresh and pure water that will quench our spiritual thirst forever

Only Jesus Christ can satisfy the thirst of our soul’s desire

The gospel is for every person no matter their race, social position, or past sins

God’s mercy is relentless

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## LIFE Circles

TELL THE STORY: \_\_\_\_\_

### JESUS AND THE SAMARITAN WOMAN JOHN 4:1-42



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



What was Jesus referring to when He told the woman about living water?

What did the woman do once she believed Jesus?

Look at vs. 34-38. What is Jesus telling His disciples?

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Share of the first time you heard the gospel.

What are your greatest fears in telling others about Jesus?

As a group, discuss conversation starters that you could use to reach out and engage those in your life circles.

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Think of someone specific you have been praying for and start a conversation with them this week.

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

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CLOSING PRAYER: \_\_\_\_\_



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP



## John 2:1-11

<sup>1</sup> On the third day a wedding took place in Cana of Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and  
<sup>2</sup> Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding as well. <sup>3</sup> When the wine ran out, Jesus' mother told Him, 'They don't have any wine.'

<sup>4</sup> 'What has this concern of yours to do with Me, woman?' Jesus asked. 'My hour has not yet come.'

<sup>5</sup> 'Do whatever He tells you,' His mother told the servants.

<sup>6</sup> Now six stone water jars had been set there for Jewish purification. Each contained twenty or thirty gallons.

<sup>7</sup> 'Fill the jars with water,' Jesus told them. So they filled them to the brim. <sup>8</sup> Then He said to them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the chief servant.' And they did.

<sup>9</sup> When the chief servant tasted the water (after it had become wine), he did not know where it came from—though the servants who had drawn the water knew. He called the groom <sup>10</sup> and told him, 'Everyone sets out the fine wine first, then, after people have drunk freely, the inferior. But you have kept the fine wine until now.'

<sup>11</sup> Jesus performed this first sign in Cana of Galilee. He displayed His glory, and His disciples believed in Him."



# first sign

## 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...

Jesus has always been known to his family as God's Holy Son, knowing that He had been sent to save the world. But just like us, He was born as a baby, grew as a boy, and matured into an adult. He studied the Law and worshiped in the temple just as many young Jewish boys living in Jerusalem would. Jewish culture is centralized on hospitality, and there are certain public rituals, such as weddings, that bring light to this aspect. To not have the finest of all things, including food and wine for their guests, would bring shame to a family as if hospitality wasn't being shown in the highest regards. To run out of food or wine would be a disgrace and would result in criticism and rejection of the hosts for invites to future events. At this point, Jesus had not yet showed his power as the Messiah to the public. His mother Mary was fully aware of His greatness and trusted in Jesus for a miracle. This is where we begin today's story.



Oftentimes, we tend to think that there are things that are too small or insignificant to bring to God. We focus on the things that we know we can't control and try to fix the little things on our own. Jesus, knowing exactly how many hairs are on our head, cares about everything concerning us, even the small things. All matters are significant to Him. We will see in today's story how Mary knew a need that was not even her own and brought it to Jesus, trusting Him to handle it the way He saw fit.



*As you are listening today, be thinking of some of the little things in your life that you need to release to God.*



# first sign

## KEY VERSE

Matthew 10:30

"But even the hairs of your head have all been counted."

## SUMMARY

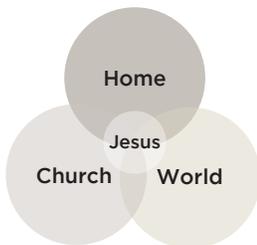
God provides for us lavishly; we must honor Him with our best

Jesus can take what is ordinary in our lives and make it extraordinary

There is no request too small for God to handle

When we bring our cares before the Lord, we must trust that He will take care of it

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## LIFE Circles

TELL THE STORY: \_\_\_\_\_

## JESUS TURNS WATER INTO WINE JOHN 2:1-11



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



In what ways did Mary and the servants trust Jesus?  
What was the chief servant's response to this miracle?

\_\_\_\_\_  
Share of a time when God provided for your smallest of needs.



What are some things in your life that you feel are too insignificant to bring before God?

What are some fears that cause you to control the little things in your life?



Make a mental note of all the little things you have been holding back from God this week and bring them before Him.

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

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CLOSING PRAYER: \_\_\_\_\_



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP



**John 4:46-54**

<sup>46</sup> Then He went again to Cana of Galilee, where He had turned the water into wine. There was a certain royal official whose son was ill at Capernaum. <sup>47</sup> When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and pleaded with Him to come down and heal his son, for he was about to die.

<sup>48</sup> Jesus told him, 'Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe.'

<sup>49</sup> 'Sir,' the official said to Him, 'come down before my boy dies!'

<sup>50</sup> 'Go,' Jesus told him, 'your son will live.' The man believed what Jesus said to him and departed.

<sup>51</sup> While he was still going down, his slaves met him saying that his boy was alive. <sup>52</sup> He asked them at what time he got better. 'Yesterday at seven in the morning the fever left him,' they answered.

<sup>53</sup> The father realized this was the very hour at which Jesus had told him, 'Your son will live.' Then he himself believed, along with his whole household.

<sup>54</sup> This, therefore, was the second sign Jesus performed after He came from Judea to Galilee."



## second sign

### 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...

Jesus had been traveling north from Jerusalem to Galilee filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region. Jesus had said that a prophet is not honored in his own hometown, yet the Galileans welcomed Him as they had seen Him at the Passover celebration in Jerusalem. People all over were traveling from far places just to see this Jesus of Nazareth. When a certain official from Capernaum had heard that Jesus was coming to Galilee he traveled 20 miles only to ask Jesus one question, one you would only ask someone who you knew would be able to deliver. This is where we begin in our story today.

**H**

*"Faith is the reality of things hoped for and the proof of what is not seen"* (Hebrews 11:1). Faith in God is definitely not easy. All throughout the Bible, we see over and over again stories where man's faith is tested. Story after story, God has revealed Himself to His people in so many ways that it seems impossible that we would forget how magnificent and powerful He is. Yet somehow we get this spiritual amnesia when our faith is tested, and we tend to rely on what is seen or proven and what we can fix and control, not on the power of the unseen, spiritual realm where Jesus is working. Faith is like a spiritual muscle, the more we use it, the stronger it gets. We must spend some time with our spiritual trainer and bulk up, so when the going gets tough, we strengthen our faith by holding on tight to Jesus and powering through it.



*As you are listening to today's story, be thinking about your own faith and the way you display it in your daily life.*



# second sign

## KEY VERSE

John 4:53

“The father realized this was the very hour at which Jesus had told him, ‘Your son will live.’ Then he himself believed, along with his whole household.”

## SUMMARY

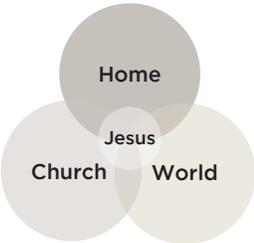
When you pray about a need, live as though you believe Jesus will do what He says

It's not enough to just say you believe; you must follow up with your actions

There's no space too big between us and Christ that He can't help us

The more we use our faith the more it grows

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LIFE Circles

TELL THE STORY: \_\_\_\_\_

### JESUS HEALS THE OFFICIALS SON JOHN 4:46-54



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



What was Jesus' response to the official when he asked Him to heal his son?

Why do you think Jesus did not go to the official's son?

What was the epiphany that the official had when he went back home?

In what ways have you required 'signs and wonders' in order to fully trust Jesus?



How would you describe your faith when it comes to miracles, or only things God can do?

What are you showing others around you through the way you display your faith?



Ask someone this week how you can pray for them and then pray with them right there on the spot.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

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CLOSING PRAYER: \_\_\_\_\_



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP



**John 5:1-15**

<sup>1</sup> After this, a Jewish festival took place, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> By the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem there is a pool, called Bethesda in Hebrew, which has five colonnades. <sup>3</sup> Within these lay a large number of the sick—blind, lame, and paralyzed [—waiting for the moving of the water, <sup>4</sup> because an angel would go down into the pool from time to time and stir up the water. Then the first one who got in after the water was stirred up recovered from whatever ailment he had].

<sup>5</sup> One man was there who had been sick for 38 years. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus saw him lying there and knew he had already been there a long time, He said to him, ‘Do you want to get well?’

<sup>7</sup> ‘Sir,’ the sick man answered, ‘I don’t have a man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I’m coming, someone goes down ahead of me.’

<sup>8</sup> ‘Get up,’ Jesus told him, ‘pick up your mat and walk!’ <sup>9</sup> Instantly the man got well, picked up his mat, and started to walk.

Now that day was the Sabbath, <sup>10</sup> so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, ‘This is the Sabbath! It’s illegal for you to pick up your mat.’

<sup>11</sup> He replied, ‘The man who made me well told me, “Pick up your mat and walk.”’

<sup>12</sup> ‘Who is this man who told you, “Pick up your mat and walk”?’ they asked. <sup>13</sup> But the man who was cured did not know who it was, because Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

<sup>14</sup> After this, Jesus found him in the temple complex and said to him, ‘See, you are well. Do not sin anymore, so that something worse doesn’t happen to you.’ <sup>15</sup> The man went and reported to the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.”



## third sign

### 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...

Jesus had been traveling with His disciples from town to town, performing miracle after miracle. Many of His miracles involved healings that astonished the people and officials alike. As people began to hear of these miracles, they would travel from near and far to see this Jesus of Nazareth who was healing the sick and raising the dead. Today's story takes place just inside the city walls of Jerusalem. Jesus was returning for one of the many festivals requiring all Jewish males to come to the Holy City. By this time, the Pharisees and Sadducee's had made so many rules and laws adding to the interpretation of God's law that they had lost sight of what its true, original purpose was.



All around us are hurting people, whether it be physical, mental, or spiritual. Most of the time, we can pass by people and not even know they're hurting. Christ has given us the Holy Spirit, helping us to have compassion on those who are hurting. Unfortunately, sometimes when we see someone in need, we judge them or criticize them for one reason or another before we even have a chance to talk with them. Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:1 to "Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose your reward from your Father in Heaven." So then, how are we supposed to help them and not be noticed at the same time? In today's story, we will see what Jesus did in this scenario: how He sought out the needy, listened without judgment, anonymously healed the man, and even followed up with him later on.



*As you are listening to the story, be thinking of the attributes that Jesus displays and how you can be more like Him.*



# third sign

## KEY VERSE

John 5:13

“But the man who was cured did not know who it was, because Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.”

## SUMMARY

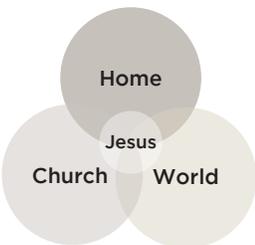
“When you give to the poor, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing..” Mt 6:3

No matter how broken we are, God is faithful to heal us and make us whole again

We must not get caught up in our man made rules so much so that we forget the people involved

May we never let a hardship or a problem cause us to lose hope

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LIFE Circles

TELL THE STORY: \_\_\_\_\_

## JESUS HEALS THE SICK JOHN 5:1-15



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



What are some characteristics or attributes that we see Jesus displaying in this story?

Jesus slipped away into the crowd, so why do you think he came back to the man at the temple?

How does it make you feel when someone listens to your story without criticism or bias?



When you do something good for someone else, do you “slip away into the crowd” or do you like to make sure somebody saw your good deed?

What are some attributes that Jesus displays in this story that you need to work on the most?



Think of someone this week in your Life Circles who may need help. Support them without letting anyone else know (even them if you can get away with it).

PRAYER REQUESTS:

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CLOSING PRAYER: \_\_\_\_\_



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP



**John 6:1-15**

<sup>1</sup> After this, Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias). <sup>2</sup> And a huge crowd was following Him because they saw the signs that He was performing by healing the sick. <sup>3</sup> So Jesus went up a mountain and sat down there with His disciples.

<sup>4</sup> Now the Passover, a Jewish festival, was near. <sup>5</sup> Therefore, when Jesus looked up and noticed a huge crowd coming toward Him, He asked Philip, 'Where will we buy bread so these people can eat?' <sup>6</sup> He asked this to test him, for He Himself knew what He was going to do.

<sup>7</sup> Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii worth of bread wouldn't be enough for each of them to have a little.'

<sup>8</sup> One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, <sup>9</sup> 'There's a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish—but what are they for so many?'

<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said, 'Have the people sit down.'

There was plenty of grass in that place, so they sat down. The men numbered about 5,000. <sup>11</sup> Then Jesus took the loaves, and after giving thanks He distributed them to those who were seated—so also with the fish, as much as they wanted.

<sup>12</sup> When they were full, He told His disciples, 'Collect the leftovers so that nothing is wasted.' <sup>13</sup> So they collected them and filled 12 baskets with the pieces from the five barley loaves that were left over by those who had eaten.

<sup>14</sup> When the people saw the sign He had done, they said, 'This really is the Prophet who was to come into the world!' <sup>15</sup> Therefore, when Jesus knew that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He withdrew again to the mountain by Himself."



## fourth sign

### 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...

Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist had just been beheaded by King Herod. Yet the king was puzzled because he kept hearing of miracles and wonders being performed. He started to think that John had been raised from the dead. This, however, was not the case. In fact, Jesus was saddened over the news of John's death and left in a boat to a remote area to be alone. But the crowds of people heard where He was going, and they followed Him on foot from many towns. Jesus saw the crowd and, even in His sadness, had compassion on them. He began teaching them and healing their sick. There were 5,000 men there, not including women and children. It was getting late, and the disciples wanted to send the people away to go to the nearby farms and villages to get something to eat, but Jesus had a different plan.

**H**

It's always interesting to listen to little kids play the "my daddy is better than your daddy" game. As children, we have so much faith that our father is the strongest man we know. Truth is, we all have a Father who truly IS bigger, stronger, and wiser than any human can ever fathom. God can do anything He wants to do; after all, He's God. But He oftentimes chooses to use His people to accomplish His purpose. In our human nature, we tend to weigh all the odds and come up with our own solutions to situations that God knows He can only do, yet He lets us come to the end of ourselves if that's what it takes to finally see that He is the only way. In today's story, we will see how Jesus lets His disciples try to come up with a plan to do what is impossible. Eventually, they turn to Him to take charge of the situation. As a result, He performs one of the most spectacular miracles recorded in the Gospels.



*As you are listening today, be thinking of ways you limit God by assuming what He can and cannot do in your life.*



# fourth sign

## KEY VERSE

John 6:14

When the people saw the sign He had done, they said, 'This really is the Prophet who was to come into the world!'

## SUMMARY

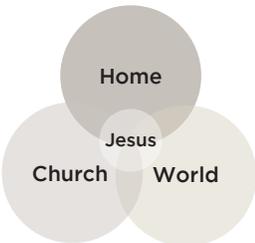
Financial resources are not the most important things in life

God is in the business of miracles; trust Him to provide the resources

God takes what little we have and makes it into something great

Nobody is too young or old for God to use in miraculous ways

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## LIFE Circles

TELL THE STORY: \_\_\_\_\_

### JESUS FEEDS THE 5,000 JOHN 6:1-15



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



What do we learn about Jesus in this story?

What is Jesus trying to teach Philip in vs. 5-7?

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What are some "fishes and loaves" in your life that Jesus wants you to use to impact the lives of others?



In what ways do you limit God by assuming what He can and cannot do in your life?

Share of an impossible task in your life right now that God wants you to release to Him.

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Specifically pray this week that God would reveal to you the impossible He wants to make possible.

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

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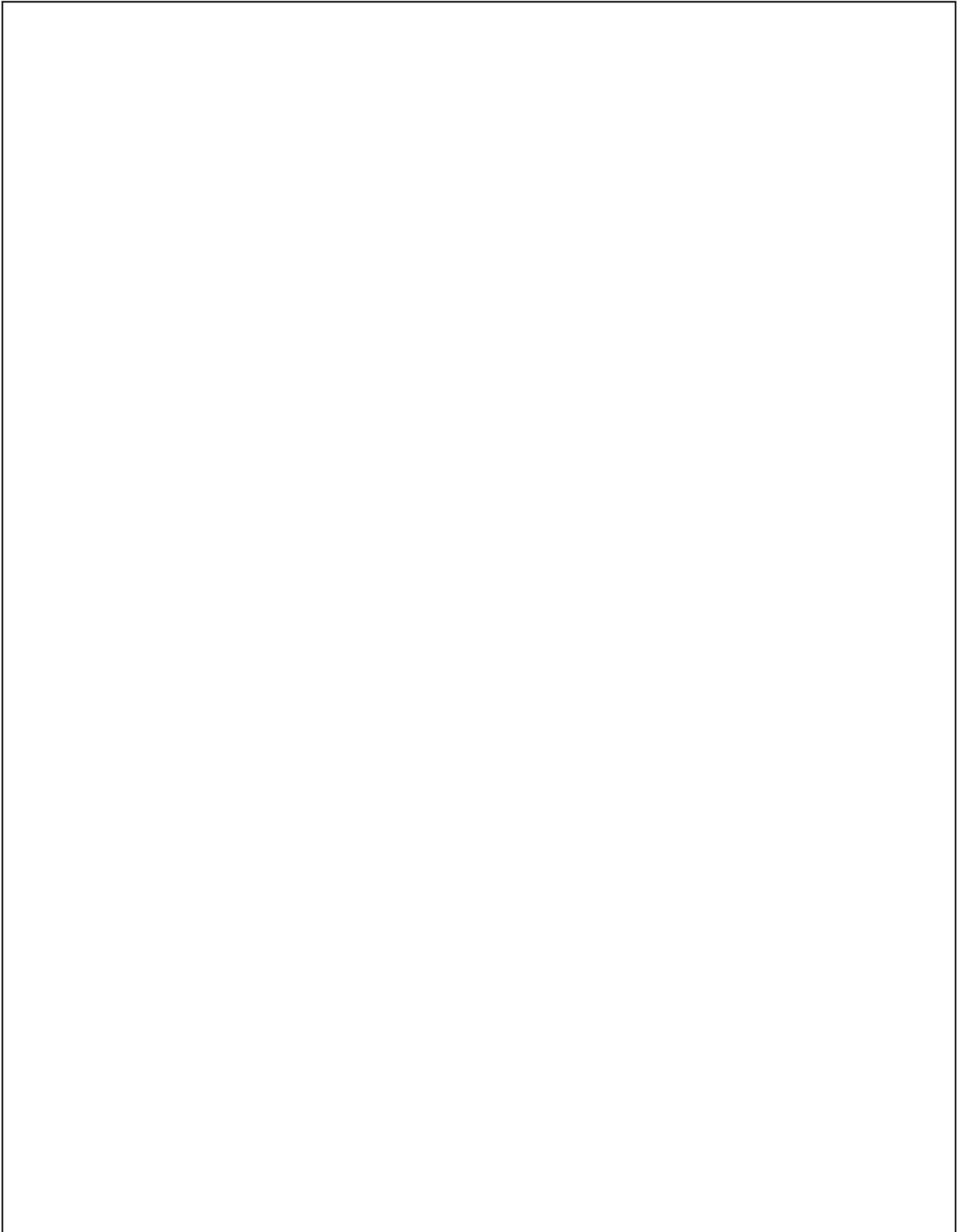
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CLOSING PRAYER: \_\_\_\_\_



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP



**John 6:16-21**

<sup>16</sup> When evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup> got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. Darkness had already set in, but Jesus had not yet come to them. <sup>18</sup> Then a high wind arose, and the sea began to churn. <sup>19</sup> After they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea. He was coming near the boat, and they were afraid.

<sup>20</sup> But He said to them, 'It is I. Don't be afraid!' <sup>21</sup> Then they were willing to take Him on board, and at once the boat was at the shore where they were heading."

## PARALLEL VERSES:

**Matthew 14:22-33**

<sup>22</sup> Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup> After dismissing the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone. <sup>24</sup> But the boat was already over a mile from land, battered by the waves, because the wind was against them. <sup>25</sup> Around three in the morning, He came toward them walking on the sea. <sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified. 'It's a ghost!' they said, and cried out in fear.

<sup>27</sup> Immediately Jesus spoke to them. 'Have courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.'

<sup>28</sup> 'Lord, if it's You,' Peter answered Him, 'command me to come to You on the water.'

<sup>29</sup> 'Come!' He said.

And climbing out of the boat, Peter started walking on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the strength of the wind, he was afraid. And beginning to sink he cried out, 'Lord, save me!'

<sup>31</sup> Immediately Jesus reached out His hand, caught hold of him, and said to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' <sup>32</sup> When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup> Then those in the boat worshiped Him and said, 'Truly You are the Son of God!'"

**Mark 6:45-52**

<sup>45</sup> Immediately He made His disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He dismissed the crowd. <sup>46</sup> After He said good-bye to them, He went away to the mountain to pray.

<sup>47</sup> When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and He was alone on the land. <sup>48</sup> He saw them being battered as they rowed, because the wind was against them. Around three in the morning He came toward them walking on the sea and wanted to pass by them.

<sup>49</sup> When they saw Him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out; <sup>50</sup> for they all saw Him and were terrified. Immediately He spoke with them and said, 'Have courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.' <sup>51</sup> Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. They were completely astounded, <sup>52</sup> because they had not understood about the loaves. Instead, their hearts were hardened."



## fifth sign

### 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...

Jesus had just finished feeding the 5,000 men and their families with only fives loaves of bread and 2 fish. After everyone was full, the disciples were able to collect 12 baskets full of leftovers. When the people saw Him do this miraculous sign, they knew He was the Prophet they were expecting and were ready to force Him to be their king, so Jesus sent the people home. He urged His disciples to head back to the other side of the lake to Bethsaida while He slipped away into the hills by Himself to spend time with the Father. This is where we pick up today in God's Word.

**H**

As we see all throughout Jesus' ministry years, He held an extremely busy schedule. But we also see that he would always set aside time, no matter how demanding His life was, to spend time with His Father in prayer. Jesus is one with the Father and knows what the Father knows. When His disciples suddenly fell into trouble, Jesus was there without hesitation. Many times in our own life we get so busy that we don't take the time and discipline to spend alone with our Heavenly Father. What we forget is that spending time in prayer nurtures a vital relationship with Him and equips us to face life's challenges and struggles, knowing He's got our back, which gives us peace. Some of the time when we remain in Him, we are able to calmly walk through the giant storms in our lives, holding onto Him. Sometimes the Lord calms the storms, and sometimes He lets the storms rage and He calms His child.



*As you are listening to today's story, be thinking about a storm in your life right now that you need Jesus to walk you through.*



# fifth sign

## KEY VERSE

Matthew 14:27

“Immediately Jesus spoke to them. ‘Have courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.’”

## SUMMARY

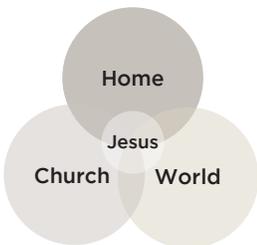
We must focus on Jesus’ power and not our own inadequacies

Recognizing Christ’s presence is the antidote for fear

“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you.” Isaiah 41:10

Even in the worst storms Christ gives us peace when we trust Him

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## LIFE Circles

TELL THE STORY: \_\_\_\_\_

## JESUS WALKS ON WATER JOHN 6:16-21



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



What was Jesus doing when the disciples were trapped by the storm?

According to the parallel verses in Matthew, what happened when Jesus told the disciples that it was Him out on the water?

What happened when Jesus boarded their boat?

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When you experience fear, how do you allow Jesus to calm you?

What are some situations in your life right now that you need to heed Jesus’ words “It is I, don’t be afraid”?

What are some “winds” in your life now that you need Jesus to rescue you from so you’re not aimlessly rowing into the storm?

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Think of someone you’re close to who may be in the middle of a storm right now. How can you use this story to share God’s love for them this week?

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

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CLOSING PRAYER: \_\_\_\_\_



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

## John 9:1-41

<sup>1</sup> As He was passing by, He saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples questioned Him: 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?'

<sup>3</sup> 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered. 'This came about so that God's works might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup> We must do the works of Him who sent Me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.'

<sup>6</sup> After He said these things He spit on the ground, made some mud from the saliva, and spread the mud on his eyes. <sup>7</sup> 'Go,' He told him, 'wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means 'Sent'). So he left, washed, and came back seeing.

<sup>8</sup> His neighbors and those who formerly had seen him as a beggar said, 'Isn't this the man who sat begging?' <sup>9</sup> Some said, 'He's the one.' 'No,' others were saying, 'but he looks like him.'

He kept saying, 'I'm the one!'

<sup>10</sup> Therefore they asked him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?'

<sup>11</sup> He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and told me, "Go to Siloam and wash." So when I went and washed I received my sight.'

<sup>12</sup> 'Where is He?' they asked.

'I don't know,' he said.

<sup>13</sup> They brought the man who used to be blind to the Pharisees. <sup>14</sup> The day that Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes was a Sabbath. <sup>15</sup> So again the Pharisees asked him how he received his sight.

'He put mud on my eyes,' he told them. 'I washed and I can see.'

<sup>16</sup> Therefore some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for He doesn't keep the Sabbath!' But others were saying, 'How can a sinful man perform such signs?' And there was a division among them.

<sup>17</sup> Again they asked the blind man, 'What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?'

'He's a prophet,' he said.

<sup>18</sup> The Jews did not believe this about him—that he was blind and received sight—until they summoned the parents of the one who had received his sight.

<sup>19</sup> They asked them, 'Is this your son, the one you say was born blind? How then does he now see?'

<sup>20</sup> 'We know this is our son and that he was born blind,' his parents answered. <sup>21</sup> 'But we don't know

how he now sees, and we don't know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he's of age. He will speak for himself.' <sup>22</sup> His parents said these things because they were afraid of the Jews, since the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him as Messiah, he would be banned from the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> This is why his parents said, 'He's of age; ask him.'

<sup>24</sup> So a second time they summoned the man who had been blind and told him, 'Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner!'

<sup>25</sup> He answered, 'Whether or not He's a sinner, I don't know. One thing I do know: I was blind, and now I can see!'

<sup>26</sup> Then they asked him, 'What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?'

<sup>27</sup> 'I already told you,' he said, 'and you didn't listen. Why do you want to hear it again? You don't want to become His disciples too, do you?'

<sup>28</sup> They ridiculed him: 'You're that man's disciple, but we're Moses' disciples. <sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses. But this man—we don't know where He's from!'

<sup>30</sup> 'This is an amazing thing,' the man told them. 'You don't know where He is from, yet He opened my eyes! <sup>31</sup> We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He listens to him. <sup>32</sup> Throughout history no one has ever heard of someone opening the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, He wouldn't be able to do anything.'

<sup>34</sup> 'You were born entirely in sin,' they replied, 'and are you trying to teach us?' Then they threw him out.

<sup>35</sup> When Jesus heard that they had thrown the man out, He found him and asked, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?'

<sup>36</sup> 'Who is He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?' he asked.

<sup>37</sup> Jesus answered, 'You have seen Him; in fact, He is the One speaking with you.'

<sup>38</sup> 'I believe, Lord!' he said, and he worshiped Him.

<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgment, in order that those who do not see will see and those who do see will become blind.'

<sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and asked Him, 'We aren't blind too, are we?'

<sup>41</sup> 'If you were blind,' Jesus told them, 'you wouldn't have sin. But now that you say, "We see"—your sin remains.'



# sixth sign

## 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...

Jesus had been traveling by foot with His disciples from town to town, teaching and healing many people. By this time, His message was becoming more direct and urgent, calling people to repent and warning them about the future crisis. The Pharisees rejected His claim and ridiculed Him for healing people on the Sabbath. Just prior to today's story, Jesus was preaching in the synagogue, and a woman was there who had been crippled for 18 years by an evil spirit. Jesus simply called out to her, "Woman you are healed of your sickness." She was instantly healed! The people rejoiced, yet the leaders in charge at the synagogue were enraged and humiliated at the miracle that Jesus performed there that day.



True healings can only be done through the power of Jesus Christ. Now with that said, why is it that even we as Christians find it hard to believe He still heals. So many times we see a true miraculous healing in ourselves or those we know and love, yet we try everything in our human power to find the explanation as if there needed to be one. As Americans, we tend to have the answers to everything and find the scientific reasoning behind it, not giving credit to the only One who heals. Jesus was never afraid to stand up against those who did not believe. He even said in Matthew 10:33, "Whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father in heaven." When, not if, you are standing before the Son of God, what will He say to you?



*As you're listening to today's story, be thinking of ways you display stubbornness to Jesus' power in your life.*



# sixth sign

## KEY VERSE

John 9:39

“Jesus said, ‘I came into this world for judgment, in order that those who do not see will see and those who do see will become blind.’”

## SUMMARY

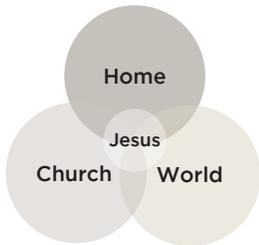
Persecution may come when you follow Jesus, but nobody can take away the eternal life He gives you

We don't need to know all the answers to share Christ with others

If we want to know Jesus more, we must trust Him in all areas of our life

“Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen.” Heb 11:1

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LIFE Circles

TELL THE STORY: \_\_\_\_\_

## JESUS HEALS A BLIND MAN JOHN 9:1-41



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



- How did the Pharisees respond to the blind man's healing?
- How did the man respond to the Pharisees?
- What was Jesus telling the Pharisees in vs. 41?

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If you had to answer truthfully, what is your first reaction when someone claims Jesus has healed them?

In what ways do you display stubbornness to Jesus' power in your life?

Why do we not trust Jesus but instead insist on explanations when it comes to healing in our life?

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Ask Jesus to reveal the “blind spots” in your character and allow Him to begin “spreading mud on your eyes” so that you may see the truth, becoming more like Him.

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

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CLOSING PRAYER: \_\_\_\_\_



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

## John 11:1-44

<sup>1</sup> Now a man was sick, Lazarus, from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, and it was her brother Lazarus who was sick. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Him: “Lord, the one You love is sick.”

<sup>4</sup> When Jesus heard it, He said, “This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” <sup>5</sup> Now Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup> So when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. <sup>7</sup> Then after that, He said to the disciples, “Let’s go to Judea again.”

<sup>8</sup> “Rabbi,” the disciples told Him, “just now the Jews tried to stone You, and You’re going there again?”

<sup>9</sup> “Aren’t there 12 hours in a day?” Jesus answered. “If anyone walks during the day, he doesn’t stumble, because he sees the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> If anyone walks during the night, he does stumble, because the light is not in him.” <sup>11</sup> He said this, and then He told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I’m on My way to wake him up.”

<sup>12</sup> Then the disciples said to Him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will get well.”

<sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, was speaking about his death, but they thought He was speaking about natural sleep. <sup>14</sup> So Jesus then told them plainly, “Lazarus has died. <sup>15</sup> I’m glad for you that I wasn’t there so that you may believe. But let’s go to him.”

<sup>16</sup> Then Thomas (called “Twin”) said to his fellow disciples, “Let’s go so that we may die with Him.”

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, He found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Bethany was near Jerusalem (about two miles away). <sup>19</sup> Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> As soon as Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet Him. But Mary remained seated in the house.

<sup>21</sup> Then Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died. <sup>22</sup> Yet even now I know that whatever You ask from God, God will give You.”

<sup>23</sup> “Your brother will rise again,” Jesus told her.

<sup>24</sup> Martha said, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me, even if he dies, will live. <sup>26</sup> Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die—ever. Do you believe this?”

<sup>27</sup> “Yes, Lord,” she told Him, “I believe You are the Messiah, the Son of God, who comes into the world.”

<sup>28</sup> Having said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”

<sup>29</sup> As soon as she heard this, she got up quickly and went to Him. <sup>30</sup> Jesus had not yet come into the village but was still in the place where Martha had met Him. <sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw that Mary got up quickly and went out. So they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to cry there.

<sup>32</sup> When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw Him, she fell at His feet and told Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died!"

<sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her crying, and the Jews who had come with her crying, He was angry in His spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> "Where have you put him?" He asked.

"Lord," they told Him, "come and see."

<sup>35</sup> Jesus wept.

<sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, "Couldn't He who opened the blind man's eyes also have kept this man from dying?"

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, angry in Himself again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> "Remove the stone," Jesus said.

Martha, the dead man's sister, told Him, "Lord, he's already decaying. It's been four days."

<sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, "Didn't I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

<sup>41</sup> So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You heard Me. <sup>42</sup> I know that You always hear Me, but because of the crowd standing here I said this, so they may believe You sent Me." <sup>43</sup> After He said this, He shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out bound hand and foot with linen strips and with his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him and let him go."



# seventh sign

## 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...

Jesus had been healing people and performing numerous miracles. The religious leaders were becoming furious with Him. They refused to believe He was the Messiah yet they saw Him perform miracle after miracle viewing them as a disturbance. These leaders knew that as long as they stayed quiet and obedient, the Romans would let them live in partial freedom. But with the mass of people following Jesus, the Pharisees believed that the Romans would come in and bring hardship to their nation. So they were watching Him closely with the intent to hinder Him if He caused too much of a scene. But they had no idea what Jesus was about to do, a miracle that foreshadowed his own death and resurrection. This is where we pick up today in God's Word.



There's a children's song that has a line in it, "O be careful little feet where you go." Although this is presumed to be speaking of children, we as adults also have eyes on us at all times. And the way we act is the way others will act from our example. But as Christians those eyes seem to be looking through a microscope. When we live our daily lives, we may not notice, but those around us are constantly looking to see how we react to various situations and how we handle hardships. In many cases, our response is directly related to the way they see Jesus. In today's story we will see one of Jesus' most famous miracles. This miracle was a massive indication of Jesus proving Himself to be the Savior of the World. There was no denying after this day that Jesus was who He said He was.



*As you are listening today, be thinking of the affect you have on those around you based on your faith in Jesus.*



# seventh sign

## KEY VERSE

John 11:25-26

“<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me, even if he dies, will live. <sup>26</sup> Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die—ever. Do you believe this?’”

## SUMMARY

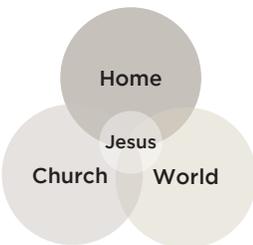
Jesus not only raised himself from the dead but He has the power to raise others as well

Jesus can always bring good out of any situation, no matter how long it's been

God's timing is always perfect and according to His purpose

Just as Jesus often expressed deep emotion, we must never hold back our emotions from Him

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LIFE Circles

TELL THE STORY: \_\_\_\_\_

## JESUS RAISES LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD JOHN 11:1-44



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



What is Jesus saying in vs. 14 & 15?

Why did Jesus let Lazarus die?

Why was Jesus angry?

When you're in a tough situation, do you find yourself grumbling, complaining and blaming God and/or others, or do you see your problems as opportunity to bring glory to God?



What are some dead areas in your life that you need Jesus' resurrecting power to heal?

What affect do you have on those in your life circles based on your faith in Jesus?



Just as Mary and Martha's faith caused a ripple effect of people coming to believe in Jesus, how can you share His resurrecting power with those in your life circles this week?



### PRAYER REQUESTS:

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CLOSING PRAYER: \_\_\_\_\_



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

## 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?

# 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 individuals 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.

## **LIFE GROUP DEBRIEF**

OPTIONAL (IF TIME ALLOWS): DEBRIEF WITH ENTIRE GROUP FOLLOWING SMALL GROUP

### **INTENTIONAL LEADER:**

This leader understands that part of their role is to reach the lost; to make disciples of Jesus and create Christ-centered environments where disciple making can happen. They understand where a person is spiritually and what is needed to help them grow.

1. What are some things you saw in your facilitator that demonstrated Intentional Leadership?
2. What did the facilitator do that helped make the group a safe environment?
3. In what ways did the facilitator encourage people to respond?
4. Based on what you just experienced, what is God revealing to you?

### **RELATIONAL ENVIRONMENT:**

A group of 3-18 people, facilitated by a leader who is intentionally modeling spiritual fruit (love, joy, peace, etc...) The people involved are doing life together with a kingdom mindset. The relationships go beyond just the group time. They move from strangers to friendships. These relationships press into areas of privacy, transparency and vulnerability.

1. What words would you use to describe the environment you just experienced?
2. What was your take on the level of sharing and depth of transparency in the group?
3. How did having a facilitator vs. teacher help in building the relational environment?
4. What is the value of creating relational environments like the one you just experienced?

### **REPRODUCIBLE PROCESS:**

Having a reproducible process is part of the disciple making components which align us as a church with a model of ministry that is reproducible. Reproducible Small Groups are a healthy sign of disciples making disciples.

1. In your small group experience, what are some specific things you saw that could easily be reproducible?
2. What did you learn today that you will put into practice in the future?

### **BIBLICAL FOUNDATION:**

The Bible alone gives a clear and complete picture of what God wants done (His mission) and how he wants it done (His methods). All other components of disciple making come from this perspective.

1. Did this small group experience encourage people to dig into God's word? Why or why not?
2. Did the learning of God's word take place?
3. Did the biblical story model affect the accuracy of the text?
4. Other than God's word, what else is necessary to making biblical disciples?

# LIFE GROUP DEBRIEF

## DEBRIEF WITH YOUR CO-LEADER AND OTHER LEADERS AFTER GROUP

These questions are not a fix all to effective coaching, nor are they intended to be. The questions below are simply tools to help us grow in relationship with each other and to help us grow and be reproducible.

### COMPONENTS AND GROUND RULES DEBRIEF (SAMPLE QUESTIONS)

1. How well did we as a team model the components?
2. Were there any questions that were challenging? Why do you think the group was confused after these questions? What is a better way to ask some of these questions?
3. Did any ground rule get broken? If yes, how did the leader deal with it?
4. Tell me what you learned about each person in your group tonight?

**Remember to encourage and build each other up.  
Celebrate where you saw each other leading well.**

### FACILITATION QUESTIONS

1. When Joe shut down, did everyone notice how the leader's refocus drew him back out? Did we realize what was done and how?
2. How did the rest of the group respond while you were talking with Joe?
3. From Joe's actions, where do you think he is in the discipleship process (four chairs) and what do you need to do next to help him grow?

### TEAM CHALLENGE:

1. What would you do different next time if you led the group?
2. What did you learn about yourself?
3. What did you learn about the discipleship process?
4. What is one area in your group leadership that you want to grow in?
5. Who is on your heart in this small group?
6. How will you intentionally pursue him / her before the next small group experience?

**Take the time to cover anything that may have been missed.  
Assign places to play for your team at the next small group experience.**

- ENCOURAGE , BUILD UP, CHALLENGE, CELEBRATE •

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# ADDITIONAL NOTES / PRAYER REQUESTS

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## ADDITIONAL NOTES / PRAYER REQUESTS



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