

A person is sitting on a brick wall in a winter setting. They are wearing a yellow jacket, blue jeans, and black sneakers with white stripes. They are holding a black Bible in their right hand. The background shows a snowy landscape with trees.

WINTER '17

LIFE GROUP CURRICULUM

Making disciples who make disciples by living LIFE TOGETHER

Content Overview

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upcoming events & opportunities to serve

november

1-9	GM Missions: Cook Turkeys
5	GM Quarterly Meeting
11	GM Women: Holiday Bazaar
12	Lord's Supper (Evening Service)
17	Parents Night Out
19	Thanksgiving Celebration & Auction

december

2	Breakfast With an Angel
3	101 Starting Point
9	Parent's Day Out
19	GM Men's Steak Night
24	Lord's Supper (Morning Services) Christmas Eve Services 5:30pm 6:30pm
25 - 29	GM Offices Closed
31	GM Youth: New Years Eve Lock-in

january

3	Awana Kickoff GM Student Ministry Kickoff
8	GM College Kickoff
13	GM Men: Beast Feast
14	101 Starting Point Lord's Supper (Evening Service)
20	Marriage Conference
26	Parent's Night Out
28	301 Leadership Development Class GM Quarterly Meeting

february

2	GM Kids: Barnyard Bash
4	No Evening Service
10	GM Youth: Legacy Event
11	201 Next Steps Class Lord's Supper (Evening Service)
23	Parent's Night Out
24	Love and Honor Banquet
25	101 Starting Point
28	GM Youth: 4th Quarter

march

1-4	GM Men: Walk to Emmaus
2	GM Kids: Monster Bash
3	GM Women: Ladies Brunch
4	Lord's Supper (Evening Service)
4-15	Israel Trip
23	Parent's Night Out
24	GM Men: Men's Breakfast

John 8:1-11

¹ But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

² At dawn He went to the temple complex again, and all the people were coming to Him. He sat down and began to teach them.

³ Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, making her stand in the center. ⁴ 'Teacher,' they said to Him, 'this woman was caught in the act of committing adultery. ⁵ In the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do You say?'

⁶ They asked this to trap Him, in order that they might have evidence to accuse Him.

Jesus stooped down and started writing on the ground with His finger. ⁷ When they persisted in questioning Him, He stood up and said to them, 'The one without sin among you should be the first to throw a stone at her.'

⁸ Then He stooped down again and continued writing on the ground. ⁹ When they heard this, they left one by one, starting with the older men. Only He was left, with the woman in the center. ¹⁰ When Jesus stood up, He said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?'

¹¹ 'No one, Lord,' she answered.

'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus. "Go, and from now on do not sin anymore."



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...

In reading through the book of John, today's story appears as if it is out of place. Although it seems to interrupt the narrative flow of John, this story is packed with points and lessons we can learn from, guiding our Christian walk. Jesus demonstrates a brilliant model of dealing with His critics, all the while, mercifully dealing with the destitute. Jesus often went to the temple court where many people came to listen to His teachings. In this story, the Pharisees thought up an idea to trap Jesus. They wanted Him to either violate Moses' Law by saying the woman was not in sin or violate Roman Law by urging the Pharisees to execute her, resulting in His arrest.

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We've heard the saying, "When you point your finger at someone, remember there are four more pointing back at you." So many times in life we tend to see everyone else's sin around us as greater than our own. At times, we even try to get someone else to be the "judge and executioner" so that we don't appear to be the harsh, self-righteous ones. In today's story, we see Jesus wisely eluding the Pharisees' set-up and flipping the whole situation on its end. Everyone experiences some type of judgement and condemnation at certain points in their lives. It appears to be even more harsh when there are others involved, being hurt by the whole situation.



Today, be thinking of ways you are personally being challenged to live differently, whether you are the accuser or the accused.



KEY VERSE

Matthew 7:1-3

"Do not judge, so that you won't be judged. ² For with the judgment you use, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. ³ Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye but don't notice the log in your own eye?"

SUMMARY

Jesus paid the penalty for all our sins on the cross

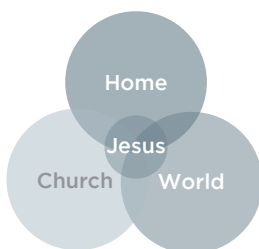
All sin separates us from the Father

"There is no one righteous, not even one." -Rom 3:10

Jesus' mercy is relentless

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LIFE Circles

TELL THE STORY: _____

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

THE ADULTERESS FORGIVEN

JOHN 8:1-11

12
MIN



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



What was the Pharisees' motive in bringing this woman to Jesus?
What are some attributes of Jesus that are highlighted in this story?
How did Jesus convict the Pharisees?

In what ways do you identify with the Pharisees in this story?



In what ways do you identify with the woman in this story?

Share of a time when someone has given you grace you didn't deserve.



Think of someone you have failed to give grace to or a specific sin in your life that the Holy Spirit is leading you to reconcile. Ask God to help you in taking steps towards grace and reconciliation this week.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

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CLOSING PRAYER: _____



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

John 10:1-21

“¹ I assure you: Anyone who doesn’t enter the sheep pen by the door but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The doorkeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought all his own outside, he goes ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they recognize his voice. ⁵ They will never follow a stranger; instead they will run away from him, because they don’t recognize the voice of strangers.’

⁶ Jesus gave them this illustration, but they did not understand what He was telling them.

⁷ So Jesus said again, ‘I assure you: I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep didn’t listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ A thief comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.

¹¹ ‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and doesn’t own the sheep, leaves them and runs away when he sees a wolf coming. The wolf then snatches and scatters them. ¹³ This happens because he is a hired man and doesn’t care about the sheep.

¹⁴ ‘I am the good shepherd. I know My own sheep, and they know Me, ¹⁵ as the Father knows Me, and I know the Father. I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶ But I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. Then there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ This is why the Father loves Me, because I am laying down My life so I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down on My own. I have the right to lay it down, and I have the right to take it up again. I have received this command from My Father.’

¹⁹ Again a division took place among the Jews because of these words. ²⁰ Many of them were saying, ‘He has a demon and He’s crazy! Why do you listen to Him?’ ²¹ Others were saying, ‘These aren’t the words of someone demon-possessed. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?’”



COMPONENTS

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OPENING PRAYER

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PURPOSE

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GROUND RULES

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ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

CELEBRATION

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TOPIC

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TAKEAWAY

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GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

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



Lets get started...

At this point in Jesus' ministry, He had already come toe-to-toe with the Pharisees, proclaiming Himself as the "I Am" and healing the blind man. After the Pharisees sarcastically challenged Jesus, He publically called out their spiritual blindness. Today's story is a result of Jesus' response to the Pharisees. Jesus' illustrations were always rich in guidance and represented God's love for us. The Pharisees perceived shepherds as unclean and unworthy to enter the Temple, nor know or have a relationship with God. They despised the shepherds because of the way they looked and smelled, thinking them to be lowly and repulsive. Once again, Jesus flipped their beliefs on end when He used this illustration of shepherds to teach and convict the Pharisees all the while, instructing those who would truly listen on how to be good leaders of God's people and recognize Jesus as the only Good Shepherd.

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There are some truths about shepherds, even today, that parallel Jesus' love for us as His sheep. A good shepherd cares for and protects the sheep from the weather, thieves, and wild animals at all cost. The sheep know they are safe with him. No matter how many voices may call that shepherd's sheep, they will not listen to or follow any but their own good shepherd. At night, shepherds will corral the sheep into a cave, and he will sleep outside of the cave to ward off any wild animals or intruders from coming in and harming the sheep while also protecting them from the harsh inclement weather that the wilderness can bring. Jesus cares for us so much so that He put His own life on the line and sacrificed Himself just so that we could live. Like the sheep that couldn't see the fullness of the shepherd's sacrifice for them, we oftentimes don't realize the severity at which Jesus took the sins of the world on Himself just so that we could spend eternity with Him and the Father.

As you are listening, be thinking of who you're more inclined to listen to: the "Good Shepherd" or the "hired men".



KEY VERSE

John 10:10

"A thief comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance."

SUMMARY

Jesus came to seek and save those who are lost

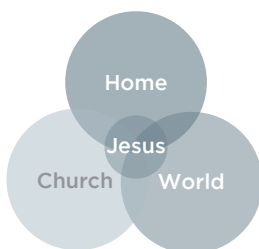
There will come a time when people will only listen to what they want to hear

Jesus will not be limited by the fences we build

Jesus is the only way to God's salvation for us

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LIFE Circles

TELL THE STORY: _____

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

THE GOOD SHEPHERD JOHN 10:1-21



12
MIN

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



What is Jesus saying in this story?

What was the response of the people when He explained Himself?

Who is Jesus referring to when He mentions "hired men"?



What are some voices of "hired men" in your life?

In what ways do you recognize the "Good Shepherd's" voice?

As sheep, what makes it difficult to respond in obedience to the Good Shepherd?



What are some ways this week in which you can describe to others how Jesus calls us by name, and desires to lead us where we need to be?

PRAYER REQUESTS:

10
MIN

CLOSING PRAYER: _____



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

NO LIFE GROUP

*"I will thank the Lord
with all my heart;
I will declare all
your wondrous works."*

Psalm 9:1

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

*From your Glen Meadows
Staff Families*

John 13:1-20

"Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart from this world to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

² Now by the time of supper, the Devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, to betray Him. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had given everything into His hands, that He had come from God, and that He was going back to God. ⁴ So He got up from supper, laid aside His robe, took a towel, and tied it around Himself. ⁵ Next, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel tied around Him.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who asked Him, 'Lord, are You going to wash my feet?'

⁷ Jesus answered him, 'What I'm doing you don't understand now, but afterward you will know.'

⁸ 'You will never wash my feet—ever!' Peter said.

Jesus replied, 'If I don't wash you, you have no part with Me.'

⁹ Simon Peter said to Him, 'Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head.'

¹⁰ 'One who has bathed,' Jesus told him, 'doesn't need to wash anything except his feet, but he is completely clean. You are clean, but not all of you.' ¹¹ For He knew who would betray Him. This is why He said, 'You are not all clean.'

¹² When Jesus had washed their feet and put on His robe, He reclined again and said to them, 'Do you know what I have done for you?' ¹³ You call Me Teacher and Lord. This is well said, for I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example that you also should do just as I have done for you.

¹⁶ 'I assure you: A slave is not greater than his master, and a messenger is not greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. ¹⁸ I'm not speaking about all of you; I know those I have chosen. But the Scripture must be fulfilled: The one who eats My bread has raised his heel against Me.

¹⁹ 'I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He. ²⁰ I assure you: Whoever receives anyone I send receives Me, and the one who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.'"

Jesus washes His disciples' feet



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OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

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



Lets get started...

Near the end of Jesus' ministry years, He had traveled numerous miles by foot with His disciples, performing countless miracles that only He could do and preaching the gospel many times to thousands of people. He foreknew His fate and began to prepare His disciples for their true task of reproducing disciples after He departed from them. Today, we pick up where Jesus was spending time with the apostles just before the Passover meal. There are so many lessons from this story as Jesus modeled one of the greatest acts of servitude that began a movement in the Christian culture. This was a moment of realization for the disciples as they were able to put so many pieces of the puzzle together from all that He had taught them over the past three years.

H.....



As an American society, we tend to have a selfish streak that runs through our veins. Jesus calls us to serve others, even when we don't like the person we are serving. How is it that He can ask us to serve someone who treats us poorly, betrays us, or maybe doesn't even know us? Does He realize how badly some people have hurt us? The truth is, Jesus has experienced a pain no one could imagine even though He did nothing wrong. He was falsely accused, humiliated, and crucified. Jesus was the perfect model of what it means to love and serve others unconditionally no matter what has been done or said beforehand.

U

As you are listening today, be thinking of how Christ's actions in this story challenge you personally to love and serve others you may think don't deserve it.



KEY VERSE

John 13:16

"I assure you:
A slave is not greater
than his master, and
a messenger is not
greater than the one
who sent him."

SUMMARY

Christ continually models
how to serve others

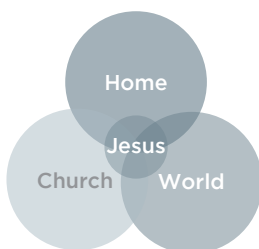
Christ commands us to
serve others, whether we
like them or not

When we serve others,
it is rewarding for us and
the person we are serving

When we serve others,
we are serving on the
behalf of Christ

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LIFE Circles

TELL THE STORY: _____

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

JESUS WASHES HIS DISCIPLES' FEET JOHN 13:1-20



12
MIN

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



What is Jesus teaching us about serving others in this story?

Why was it difficult for Peter to allow Christ to wash his feet?



How does it make you feel when someone serves you unconditionally?

Share of a time you were called to serve someone whom you thought did not deserve it?

How does Christ's actions in this story challenge you personally?



Think of someone in your life who may be hurting or in need. What are some ways you can serve and show them the hands and feet of Jesus?

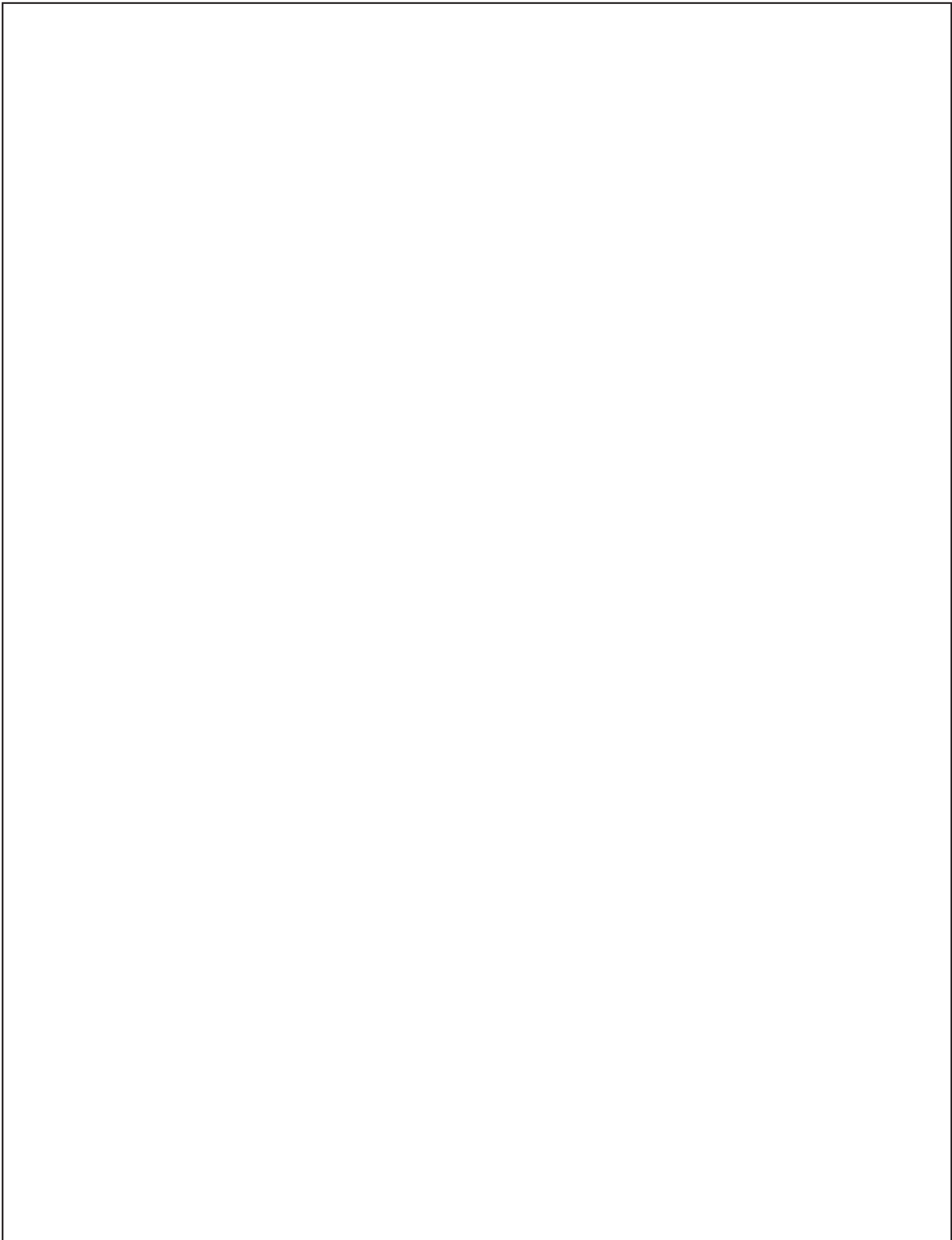
PRAYER REQUESTS:

10
MIN

CLOSING PRAYER: _____



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP



Luke 2:1-20

"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole empire should be registered. ² This first registration took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³ So everyone went to be registered, each to his own town.

⁴ And Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David, ⁵ to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ Then she gave birth to her firstborn Son, and she wrapped Him snugly in cloth and laid Him in a feeding trough—because there was no room for them at the lodging place.

⁸ In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: ¹¹ Today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David. ¹² This will be the sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in cloth and lying in a feeding trough."

¹³ Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors!

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go straight to Bethlehem and see what has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

¹⁶ They hurried off and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the feeding trough. ¹⁷ After seeing them, they reported the message they were told about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

¹⁹ But Mary was treasuring up all these things in her heart and meditating on them.

²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard, just as they had been told."



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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...

Many prophecies of Jesus, the Messiah, had been written throughout hundreds of years prior to His birth. Some can be found in Micah 5:2, Isaiah 11:1, and Jeremiah 33:15. Although Jesus' earthly parents, Joseph and Mary, lived in a town called Nazareth, these prophecies about a coming Messiah noted that Jesus was to be born in Bethlehem, which was a 70 mile journey from their hometown. But God's plan was much bigger than Joseph and his pregnant wife, Mary could even imagine. God's plan was to use Caesar, who did evil in the eyes of the Lord, to issue a census for tax purposes to all the Roman empire. This would bring Joseph and his household back to Bethlehem, fulfilling prophecy from hundreds of years earlier.

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Growing up, some of us have gathered as families before our Christmas trees to hear the "Christmas Story" prior to diving into our presents and eating until our waistbands break. Each year we see a plethora of Nativity scenes brought out by families and businesses during the holidays. But how often do we really ponder all that was going on at that time? The perfect timing that God arranged so that each prophecy concerning the Messiah would be fulfilled. The reality of our Heavenly Father, God Himself, coming to earth as a baby to be born in a feeding trough and not a castle with kings and servants. Shepherds, the lowliest of all people at that time, being the first to know of His birth. They left their livelihood behind in haste to go and visit a baby. The shepherds came back to share such joy and excitement. Today we will see that Christmas is not about presents, but about His presence.



As you are listening today, really focus on the true meaning of Christmas and God's purpose for our lives.



KEY VERSE

Luke 2:11

"Today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David."

SUMMARY

God uses the ordinary to achieve the extraordinary

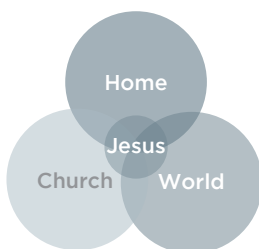
When we are obedient to God, He uses us to our fullest intended purpose

Jesus' birth should be the central focus of the Christmas season

The Good News about Jesus was never a secret

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LIFE Circles

TELL THE STORY: _____

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

THE BIRTH OF JESUS LUKE 2:1-20



12
MIN

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



What were the titles that the angels gave Jesus and what do each of them tell us about Him?

What are some attributes we see in God from this story?

How did the shepherds respond to the news?

Why do you think some people prefer Jesus as "a baby"?



What has this story taught you personally about God's view on inconvenient circumstances in your life?

What is something that would cause you to leave everything you have to go on an expensive and time consuming journey as the shepherds did in this story?



This Christmas season, think about how you can focus more on the birth of Christ rather than getting stuck in the minutia of what Christmas has become to our culture.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

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MIN

CLOSING PRAYER: _____



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

Presence

L I F E T O G E T H E R

LIFE GROUP SERVE WEEK

- Adopt a family for Christmas
- Invite a neighbor for dinner
- Bring a neighbor dinner
- Help someone with yard work
- Help a neighbor w/ home project
- Volunteer to do the dirty work at a local business
- Visit the elderly and/or help them write/send Christmas cards
- Babysit for a young couple while they Christmas shop for their kids
- Cut/stack firewood for someone in need
- Etc.

NO LIFE GROUP

Life Group Christmas Party

*May God bless you and your family at
Christmas from the Staff at Glen Meadows!*
(No Life Groups next week 12/24 - 12/30)

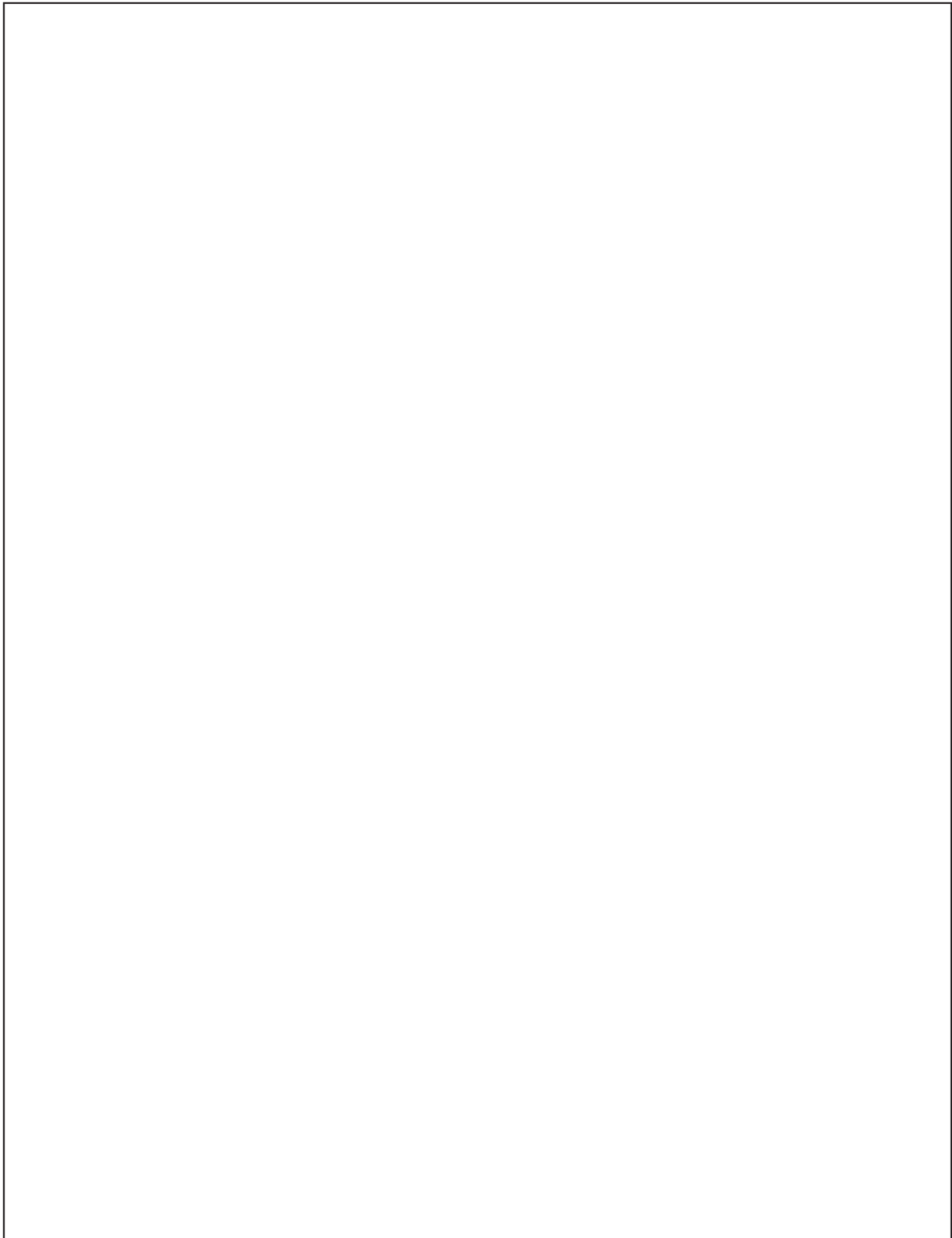
NO LIFE GROUP

"For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."

-Isaiah 9:6

Merry Christmas

From the Staff at Glen Meadows



John 13:31-38

³¹ When he was gone, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

³³ 'My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

³⁴ 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'

³⁶ Simon Peter asked him, 'Lord, where are you going?'

Jesus replied, 'Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.'

³⁷ Peter asked, 'Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.'

³⁸ Then Jesus answered, 'Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!'"



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...

Today's story takes place in the Upper Room where Jesus and His disciples were partaking in the Last Supper. Jesus had just finished washing His disciples' feet, explaining to them the importance of servant leadership. Afterwards, Jesus called Judas out as the one who would betray Him that very evening. Jesus knew that the enemy had entered Judas and he would soon hand Jesus over to the officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, and the Roman soldiers in exchange for a small bag of silver. The story focuses on Peter, who was known to be impulsive and often spoke without thinking, but Jesus saw in him something special that most men would not see right away. He saw a real person, one who could be molded, shaped, and changed by Christ's love.

H.....



There may be times when we feel as if we've given our all to Jesus, and then the very next moment, we find ourselves making decisions that are directly in opposition to God's Word. God never expects perfection from us. As a matter of fact, there has only been one perfect person in all of history, Jesus Christ, God's one and only Son. He is the only one to have no sin, take on the sins of the world, and be brutally beaten and crucified for us, even before we were born. Let's face it, there are few things in life that we would give our life for. Some would say they'd die for their kids, but would you die for a perfect stranger? That is love at all cost. So how could we, in all consciousness deny someone who loves us as much as Jesus does?

As you're listening today, think of ways you can show those in your LIFE circles the grace giving love of Jesus.



KEY VERSE

John 13:35

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

SUMMARY

Love is more than warm feelings; it is an attitude in action

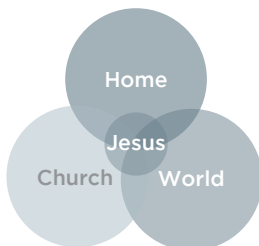
God's love for us is far greater than we could ever imagine

It's easy to make promises, but God knows the extent of our commitment

Even in our unfaithfulness to Christ, He loves us unconditionally

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LIFE Circles

TELL THE STORY: _____

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

JESUS PREDICTS PETER'S DENIAL JOHN 13:31-38



12
MIN

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



What is this passage saying?

Where was Jesus going?

How will people know we are His disciples?

In what ways do people in your LIFE circles see Christ in you?



What are some ways we as believers can show love for one another and to the world?

We see here that Jesus knows exactly what we will do to hurt Him. So how can you relate to Peter at the end when Jesus foresees his betrayal?



Think of someone in your LIFE Circles this week who may need the love of Christ shown to them. How are you going to show them Jesus' love like He loves us?

PRAYER REQUESTS:

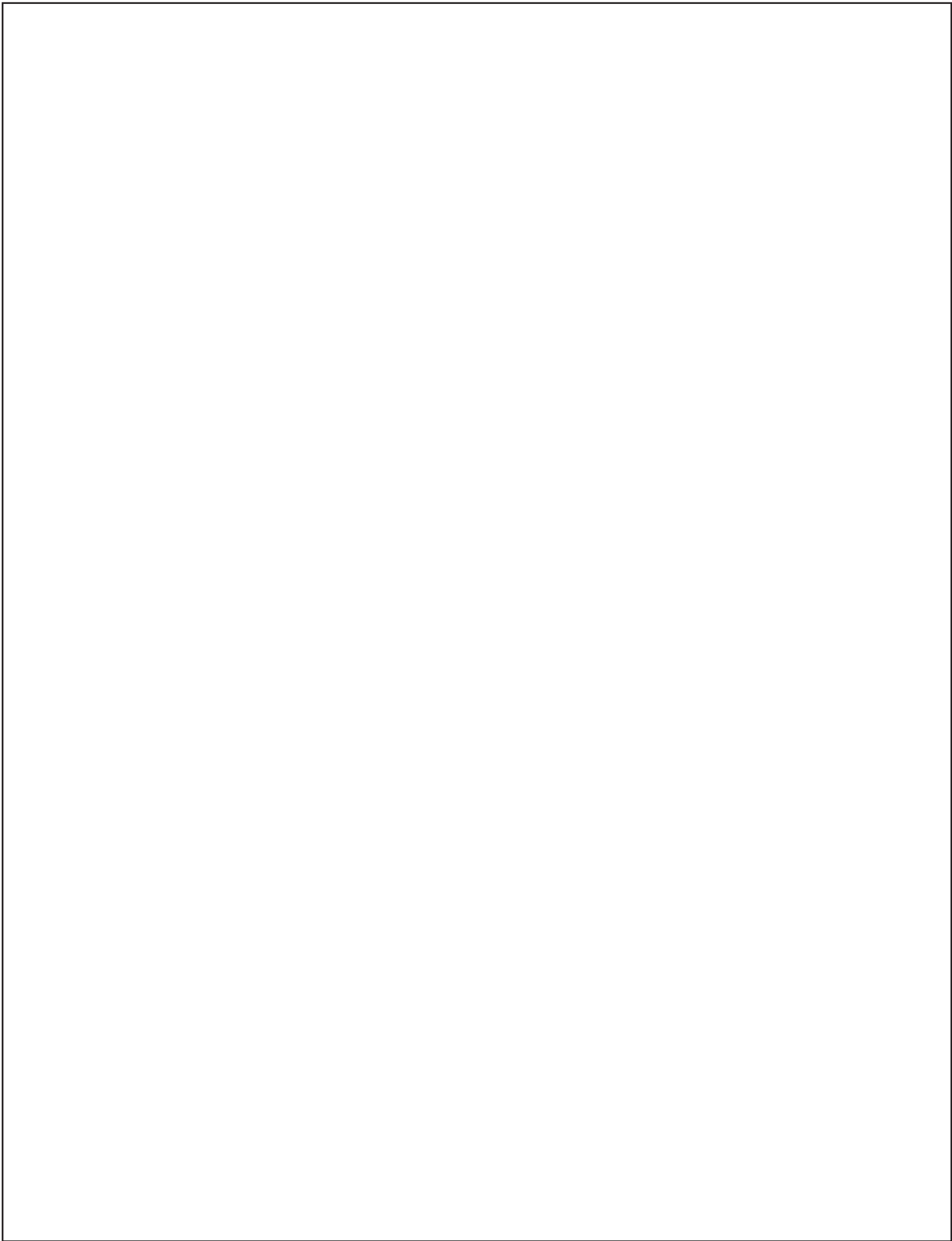
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CLOSING PRAYER: _____



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP



John 14:1-14

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.’

⁵ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?’

⁶ Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.’

⁸ Philip said, ‘Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.’

⁹ Jesus answered: ‘Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?

¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.’

“¹² I assure you: The one who believes in Me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in My name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.”



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PURPOSE

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ICEBREAKER

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

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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 were in the upper room partaking of the last supper, when Jesus modeled to them the heart of a servant leader and went on to speak of Peter's denial. Although Jesus warned His disciples of His coming death, His focus was not on Himself and the agony and pain He was about to face. Instead, He directed their eyes straight to the Father and how they too could be with Him for eternity. Jesus' concerns were toward comforting and encouraging them all the while, preparing them for what was about to take place. He warns them of the trials they too would face when building the Kingdom and the importance of producing fruit even in persecution (Jn 16:1-4).

It is so easy in life to become focused on the pain and suffering all around us. Sometimes it even feels like this world is in a downward spiral and there is no hope for humanity. The enemy loves nothing more than to distract us from Jesus and turn our focus to the things of this world. Even when those things seem harmless, if they shift our attention away from our Heavenly Father, the enemy has successfully done his job.

Jesus has made a way for us to be with Him and the Father for all of eternity. He has prepared a place for all those who call Him their Lord and Savior. All He asks of us is a personal relationship with Him. That doesn't seem so hard, but as we have learned earlier this year, we do not battle the flesh but the powers of darkness in the unseen. There are so many voices all around us every day that tell us there are numerous ways that lead to heaven. But as we will learn today, Jesus gives us a very clear direction to Heaven, and it is the only way, through Him.

As you are listening to the story, be thinking about how God is preparing your journey of faith now for life eternal with Him.





KEY VERSE

John 14:6

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

SUMMARY

Jesus is the only way to heaven

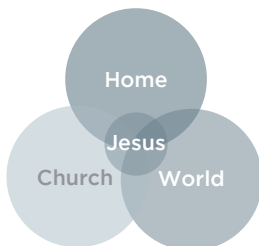
God has been preparing a place in heaven for us since the beginning of time

Jesus is coming back for those who believe in Him

We must take part in changing other people's eternities, so they can also go to heaven

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LIFE Circles

TELL THE STORY: _____

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JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO THE FATHER JOHN 14:1-11



12
MIN

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



What is Jesus telling His disciples in this passage?

What does Jesus mean when He says, "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it"?

How do you feel about there only being One True God and only One Way to the Father?



What are some things that get in the way of your faith and following Jesus?

Although Jesus is preparing a place for you in heaven, how is He preparing your journey of faith now to spend eternity with Him?



What does God want to use in your personal journey with Him to share with others this week who may be struggling?

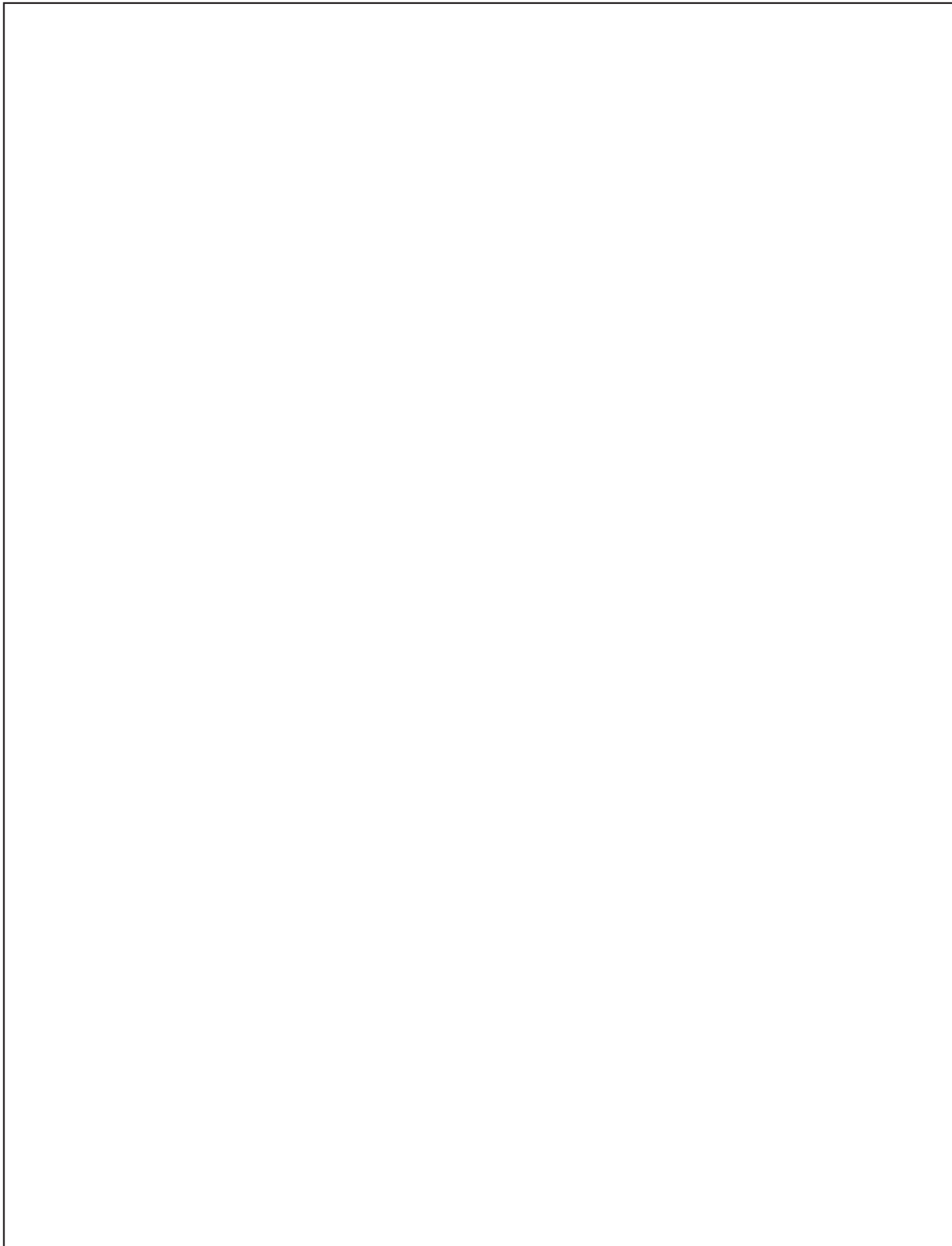
PRAYER REQUESTS:

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CLOSING PRAYER: _____



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP



John 16:1-15

"I have told you these things to keep you from stumbling. ² They will ban you from the synagogues. In fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³ They will do these things because they haven't known the Father or Me. ⁴ But I have told you these things so that when their time comes you may remember I told them to you. I didn't tell you these things from the beginning, because I was with you.

⁵ 'But now I am going away to Him who sent Me, and not one of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' ⁶ Yet, because I have spoken these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don't go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send Him to you. ⁸ When He comes, He will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: ⁹ About sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see Me; ¹¹ and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

¹² 'I still have many things to tell you, but you can't bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak whatever He hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, because He will take from what is Mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ Everything the Father has is Mine. This is why I told you that He takes from what is Mine and will declare it to you.'"



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OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

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



Lets get started...

In Jesus' last moments here on earth, He warned His disciples of the world's hatred toward them and all those who believed in Him. He spoke of the contempt that the religious leaders had for Him. This animosity has consequentially fallen onto anyone who follows Jesus. He said that when persecutors come against us as believers, they are in effect persecuting Jesus Himself. On the flipside, He told the apostles that those who listened to His words would also listen to their words. When He was about to ascend into heaven, He imparted to the disciples the One He called the Advocate, or the Counselor. Since Jesus in the flesh, who was only one man and could only be in one place at a time, would not be on earth anymore, He spoke of the Holy Spirit, who could be at all places at all times. This empowered believers of all nations to testify to the power of Jesus Christ.



As children, our parents would teach us what to do and what not to do. Oftentimes we would have to learn the hard way, even when they would warn us of the consequences. As we become Christians, the Holy Spirit comes and lives in us. He takes on the role of our Counselor, helping us to discern what is right and what is wrong. The more we spend time in the Word of God and prayer, the more we get to know Him. The more we get to know Him, the more intuitive we are to His teachings. The Holy Spirit is there to guide us in all truth. When we try to do things on our own or think we know a better way, we get hurt or create major setbacks for ourselves. Jesus sent His Holy Spirit to guide and protect us, as well as giving us the wisdom to discern the flesh from the spirit.

As you are listening today, be thinking of the role that the Holy Spirit plays in your life right now.



KEY VERSE

John 16:8

"When He comes, He will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment."

SUMMARY

God sent His Holy Spirit so that we may never be alone

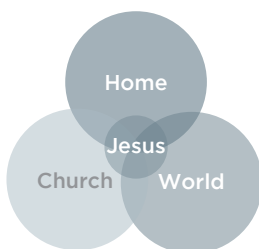
Not believing in Jesus is considered sin (Jn 16:9)

The Holy Spirit helps us to discern right from wrong

It is the Holy Spirit who revealed truths to the disciples who in turn wrote the New Testament

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LIFE Circles

TELL THE STORY: _____

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

JESUS TEACHES ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT JOHN 16:1-15



12
MIN

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



What does Jesus tell us of the coming days? In what ways do we see this in our world today?

What is the significance of Jesus leaving and sending the Holy Spirit?

What is the role of the Holy Spirit?



In what ways can you be a stumbling block to other believers when it comes to their faith in Jesus?

How do you see the Holy Spirit at work in your life now?

What are some things in your life that hinder your ability to hear from the Holy Spirit?



Share God's love with someone this week as it is displayed through the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

10
MIN

CLOSING PRAYER: _____



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

ICEBREAKER QUESTION IDEAS: (QUICK ONES ARE IN BOLD)

1. What is your favorite memory as a child?
2. Share something you fear.
3. How old were you when you learned to ride a bike, what was that experience like?
4. When in your life, if ever, did God become more than a word to you?
5. What's your most embarrassing moment?
6. Describe an experience when the Holy Spirit has been your comforter.
7. When was the first time you became aware that God loves you?
8. What are your strongest convictions about God?
9. **If you could hear God say one thing to you, what would that be?**
10. **If you could see God standing in front of you, what one thing would you most want to say to Him?**
11. **What single question would you most want God to answer for you if He would?**
12. Describe the person you have known whom you felt knew God most intimately.
13. What would you do if heavy persecution came on you/your family?
14. What would you do with an extra free day off of work?
15. Where would you go if you could go anywhere in the world?
16. **If you could become an animal for one day, which one would it be?**
17. **What is one secret place in your house that you only clean on special occasions (like mother-in-law visiting)?**
18. Whom do you admire the most? In what ways does that person inspire you?
19. If you knew your time was cut short, what's one thing you'd change about the way you are now living?
20. If you could be famous, what would you be famous for?
21. What do you strive for the most in your life – ie: accomplishment, security, love, power, excitement, knowledge, etc?
22. 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?
23. **How many of your friendships have lasted more than ten years?**
24. If someone were to write a book about you, what do you think the title and theme would be?
25. What things make your life complicated?
26. **In one line what is life all about?**
27. If your animals could talk, what would they tell you?
28. What would be the greatest birthday present of all time?
29. **Give three words to describe how you feel right now.**
30. If you could hang a motto or saying in every home in the world, what would it be?
31. Which emoji best describes you and why?
32. **What was the make / model / year / color of your first car?**
33. What's your biggest pet peeve?
34. **What's your first name and an adjective that starts with the same first letter, that best describes you? (ie: Carl:Caring)**
35. Favorite Christmas Carol and why?
36. **Would you rather.....?**
37. **If you were a magazine, which would you be?**
38. If you could be a fly on a wall, where would you most want to be?
39. **What is your favorite soda?**
40. What was it like the first time I spoke in public?
41. **If you were a magazine, which one would you be?**
42. **If you could be a fictitious superhero, who would you be? Or what super power would you most want?**
43. Greatest peer pressure as an adult?
44. Where do you feel closest to God?
45. **What is your favorite music genre?**
46. How do you react when people sing "Happy Birthday" to you in a restaurant?
47. When did you last sing to yourself? To someone else?
48. **Who is your favorite singer?**
49. **What is your favorite musical instrument?**
50. What is at the top of your bucket list?
51. What is usually the first thing that comes to your mind when you think about God?
52. How would you describe God to a child?
53. What color best describes you and why?
54. What was the high point of last week? The low point?
55. **What one word would be your theme for the year?**
56. Name one person who has had the biggest impact in your life and why?
57. If I knew I had only one year to live, I would spend it....
58. **If I could visit any place in the world, it would be...**
59. If I had a million dollars to spend for the benefit of mankind...
60. The thing that causes me the greatest satisfaction is...
61. Wallet/Purse scavenger hunt: The most worthless item? - The most priceless item? - The most revealing item? - The most memorable item? - etc.

EXPLANATION OF LIFE GROUP ICONS

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



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



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



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



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

IMPORTANT: ALL BIBLES SHOULD REMAIN CLOSED FOR THIS PART.



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



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



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



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



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

COMPONENTS OF A LIFE GROUP

WELCOME

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

OPENING PRAYER

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

PURPOSE

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

GROUND RULES

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

ICEBREAKER

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

TOPIC/STORY

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

CLOSING PRAYER

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

PLACES TO PLAY

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

GROUND RULES

WHY GROUND RULES?

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

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY:

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

NO FIXING OTHERS:

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

LISTEN & PAUSE

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

DON'T RESCUE:

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

USE "I" STATEMENTS:

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

NO CROSS TALK:

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

STAY ON TOPIC:

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

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK:

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

ADDITIONAL NOTES / PRAYER REQUESTS

ADDITIONAL NOTES / PRAYER REQUESTS



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