CHURCH ON THE

EXPLORING OUR SPIRITUAL AND MISSIONAL PURPOSE!

WEEK 1 LEADER GUIDE



WEEK 1

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.

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BIG IDEA

Today, many people have become more secluded and disconnected than ever before. They do not have real relationships, but rather communicate through texts or interact with AI without ever connecting with another person. But this is not the plan God had for our lives! As followers of Christ, we need God and we need each other in order to live a meaningful, fulfilling life! We are each gifted uniquely to do what God has created us to do, but we can't do it all on our own!

From the very beginning, we find that mankind was created with a need for others. We were created in the image of God in order that we could have a relationship with Him. In Genesis 2, we see that God created a helpmate for Adam, because it was not good for man to be alone. In Exodus, as the Israelites fought against the Amalekites, they were victorious as long as oses held up the staff of God, but as he grew

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weary and put his hands down, they lost. So, Aaron and Hur supported Moses' hands and God delivered the victory to His people. After David committed adultery and murder and did not repent, God sent Nathan to point out his sin and encourage him to repent and return to God. In Ecclesiastes 4:12, we find that on our own, we may be overcome or overpowered by another, but with the support of others, we can stand firm and secure. This week, we will see the importance of connecting with God and with others as we seek to live the life God has called us to.

Passages	we'll	review:

Zechariah 8:1-8, 16-17; Matthew 22:37-39;

Hebrews 10:19-25

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What stood out to you from the message this week? What led you to really think? Did anything challenge you?

What part of your identity are you most comfortable sharing with others? Least? Why? What role have other people played in shaping your identity?

Describe a time when being with a group of people strengthened or renewed your spirit.

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

What jumped out at you from the video in this session? What are some of the key points that impacted you more than others?

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READ

Read Zechariah 8:1-8

God used Zechariah to remind His people that He was "jealous" for them. This jealousy was not resentment or envy, but rather zealousness, as God was fiercely protective over His people. It was God's passion-driven response to His love for them.

How does God's passion for His people in Zechariah reflect His desire for a relationship with us as well?

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(While Zechariah was prophesying of the coming Messiah and the redemption He would

provide for God's people, we can look back to see the promises that have been fulfilled

through the first coming of Christ! Just as God

had a zealous love for His people Israel, He has that same love for all who follow Him! He was

jealous for His people Israel and provided a

future hope for them, and we have that same promise! As a result of His jealous/zealous love

for us, He provides all who follow Him with a

glorious hope and future eternity with Him, but

we must make the decision to follow Him!)

What do the specific promises God gave of safety, prosperity, and joy in the restoration of Jerusalem reveal about God's plan for His people?

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(Open for discussion. God promised peace and security for the future. This is evidenced through the old and the young being able to move about freely in public places, not worrying about their safety. They would also live a long life in His presence. God focuses on the people, not the places, as He provides safety and security for them, and brings them together from all ends of the earth as they dwell (abide, reside, settle down) with Him for eternity.)

When we find ourselves in the midst of difficult times, it is often easy to be overwhelmed by our situation and lose sight of the bigger, eternal picture. The same was true with the people of Jerusalem at this time. Based on their circumstances and own abilities, God's promises seemed over-the-top and too hard to believe!

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politic	ians	make	t00-	g o o d -	to-b	e tru	e pro	mis	ses,
are yo	u in	itially	tru	sting	or	are	you	m o	stly
skepti	cal?	What	does	your	resp	onse	depe	n d	on?

(Open for discussion)

What difference does it make when God — promises you something? How do you respond — in situations that are seemingly impossible for — you to comprehend or solve?

(Open for discussion. We must remember that nothing is too difficult for God! In Matthew

19:26, Jesus reminded His disciples that, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." We can trust that God will do what He says He will do; He will never let us down. He may not work things out in the way we think is best or in the timeframe we expect, but He will bring to completion everything He has promised!)

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How	can	God's	promises	about	the	future
motiv	ate u	ıs to liv	e better to	day?		

(Open for discussion. We know that one day,

Christ will return and reign over all things in
the new heaven and earth. While we may face
difficult, uncertain times now, when we choose
to follow Him we can look forward to the future
we will have with Him as we live our lives here
on this earth now.)

As God promised to restore the City of Faithfulness, there was an obligation on both parties, both God and His people. The people of God were to live in obedience to God, and God's faithfulness to redeem His own would be a testament to the world of His greatness and His wonderful works.

Read Zechariah 8:16-17

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What	ex	pecl	atio	o n s	did	I G	o d	plac	e 0	n Hi	s po	eople	•
in ord	der	for	the	m t	o e	кре	rie	nce	His	favo	r?	Were	•
these	in	strı	ıcti	o n s	o n	lу	for	the	ре	ople	at	this	
time,	or	do t	hev	ар	ply	to	us	as w	ell	?			

(Open for discussion. Speak truth to one another, seek truth and peaceful judgements, do not plot evil against others, don't lie/perjure. The faithfulness of the people to follow the commands of God would display their relationship with God to the rest of the world as they loved and sought peace and truth. This holds true for us today as well, as we have His Spirit at work in us to make us more like Him!)

Je	sus	remi	inds	us th	at th	is is	not	just	for	t h	10SE
in	the	Old	Test	ament	! We	are	also	call	ed t	0	live
a	holy	and	rig	hteou	s lif	e as	we	repre	esen	t	Him
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Read Matthew 22:37-39

Why do you think Jesus emphasized loving God with heart, soul, mind and strength?

(Open for discussion. We are to love God as the only, true God. Jesus knew that in order to have the relationship with God that He desired, we must love Him with all that we are and all that we have, thus heart, soul, mind, and strength, as well as everything that we possess. True love for God involves both our will and our heart.)

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Why	d o	y o u	think	Jesus	linked	these	t w o
c o m n	n a n d	s tog	ether?	In wha	t ways	does lo	ving
God e	m p o	weru	s to lo	ve othe	rs? Give	examp	les.

(Open for discussion. Jesus knew that our love for God couldn't be separated from our love for others. It is impossible to love God as He commanded and not love others.)

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Hebrews 10:19-25

Loving God and loving people ought to be our central purpose as followers of Christ! Our spiritual relationship with God is displayed through our social relationships with others!

The writer of Hebrews gives us three exhortations as we live this life: draw near to God, hold on to our faith without wavering, and encourage and support each other as followers of Christ.

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(Open for discussion. To draw near to God is to approach God, or come before Him, in prayer and worship. We can fellowship with Him as we enjoy His presence and express our devotion to Him. We have the privilege and opportunity to be in His presence daily, continually. This includes having a genuineness of heart, confidence in Christ alone, and confession and repentance of sin.)

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Why is it so important to hold on to our faith ———without wavering?

(Open for discussion. It is necessary that we rely solely on the hope we have in Christ. It is easy to be overwhelmed by trouble and distracted by the things of this world. Satan will seek to distract us from the things of God, and we cannot fight our battles on our own; only God can provide the strength we need! So we must keep our focus on Christ at all times, not veering from Christ at any point. We must hold on to Him at all times!)

What are some ways we can be tempted to waver in our faith? How can we resist these temptations?

(Open for discussion)

(Open for discussion)

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Why is community so important in the life of	NOTES
believers in Christ? What would be the results	HOTES
if Christians gave up meeting together? How	
can we overcome our fears and reluctance to be	
engaged with others?	
(Open for discussion. We need each other. We	
need regular fellowship with other believers in	
order to help us grow in Christ. We must focus	
on each other and not just be self-focused, as	
we live out the love of God. We can pick each	
other up when we stumble and fall, and	
encourage and exhort one another. We will face	
persecution in this life, but we must not allow	
it to keep us apart. We need fellowship with	
other believers to stimulate each other to love	
and good deeds!)	
How have you been encouraged and stirred to	
"love and good deeds" through Christian	
community? What are some practical ways we	
can encourage and support one another in our	
faith journeys?	
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PRAY

Consider the following as you pray together:

- Have you connected with a loving God who calls you His own? If not, please talk with your LifeGroup leader or one of our pastors.
- Have you connected with other believers who you can encourage and who can encourage you? If not, how can you overcome your fears and reluctance to engage with other believers?
- In Hebrews 10:19-25, we are given three exhortations: draw near to God, hold on to our faith without wavering, and encourage and support each other as followers of Christ. Which of these three exhortations do you need to apply most? What are some specific ways you can grow in this area?



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