

LIFEGROUPS

Winter 2023 | 02.12.23

To catch up on the full Sunday messages from this series, check out our YouTube channel.

[\[YouTube Channel\]](#)

INTRO & ICE BREAKER

Introduce yourself and answer this: What's the best piece of advice you have ever been given?

RECAP & DISCUSSION

In this week's message, Pastor Chris spoke about how God sees all of us and wants to celebrate us when we look toward Him. He emphasized that regardless of what we have done or where we go, there is no place where God's grace cannot find us. We see that love isn't just something for other people, true love is available to all of us.

Discussion: Let's spend a few moments sharing what stood out to us from the message on Sunday. What was new or unexpected? What impacted you the most? What did you talk about after service?

Pastor Chris shared a story from the book of Luke, in which Jesus was speaking to a crowd that included sinners that were looked down upon by religious people in their society. Jesus shared the parable of the Prodigal Son, who had spent all his inheritance living a sinful life away from his father. When the son had reached rock bottom, he eventually returned to his father, but was filled with shame and felt unworthy of his father's love.

Discussion:

- What was significant about Jesus' audience and why he chose to share this story?
- Have you ever felt unworthy of love and forgiveness from God or others in your life? If so, where does this feeling come from?

Have someone read: Luke 15:11-24

Pastor Chris emphasized the role of the father in this story as being a representation of the way God views us as his children. The father saw his son "a long way off" and "was filled with

compassion for him.” The father ran to the son and greeted him with love and celebration even though the son had been selfish and felt shame in that moment.

Discussion:

- What does the reaction of the father tell us about the way God sees, celebrates and wishes to bless us?
- What does the son’s initial reaction to his father tell us about how we sometimes react in moments like these?
- How might this change the way you view the way God sees you?

Pastor Chris described the way that the father would have had to embarrass himself by lifting his robe and running toward his son. He explained that this was a foreshadowing of what Jesus would do for all of us when he was crucified. Jesus took on shame and death for our sins, so that we would not have to be separated from God. When we sin, make mistakes or turn our hearts away from God, we can feel overwhelmed with shame and the mess we’ve created in our lives. If we turn toward God, He will give us wisdom, peace of spirit and peace of mind. God wants to run to you!

Discussion:

- How might the image of God “running” to you change the way you respond when you sin or make a mistake?
- How might this change the way you talk about God, His love and His grace to others?

SALVATION PRAYER FOLLOW UP

Did anyone raise their hand on Sunday to respond to Pastor Chris’ message? Pastor Chris encouraged them with these next steps:

- Decide now to come every Sunday no matter what
- Start read the Bible starting in Luke then Acts, then Matthew, Mark, John.
 - If anyone doesn’t have a Bible, please let your LG Leader know! They can reach out to Pastor Katie, and we can help get you one!
- Get water baptized! Sign up for the next Baptism Sunday at ourcity.church/connect

ANNOUNCE

- **Coming up:**
 - Next week starts Week 1 of our new series called “DTR” (which stands for Define the Relationship) - we’ll be talking about all of the different relationships in our lives! These are always great invite weeks - everyone can benefit from having healthier relationships!
 - Growth Track 301 is next Sunday 2/19 - if you haven’t gone through Growth Track yet, you can jump in on any week!

PRAY

One of the things that we want to focus on each season of Life Groups is to get comfortable praying out loud together. Close out your time together with prayer. If you're a newer Life Group, the leader can set an example by leading in prayer, but explain that we'll all be doing this over the next few weeks together. Explain that prayer is simply talking to God - there aren't perfect words to say. Next week, encourage someone else to close in prayer!

Are there any prayer requests or praise/celebrations?

- Please pray for anyone who raised their hand on Sunday! Some things to pray for:
 - Godly community
 - Protection from the enemy's attacks
 - Start reading the Bible in Luke
 - To have the courage to get baptized!
- Please pray for our new building and for the plans/construction process!
 - We will have an update next week!

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