

# Life Group Lesson

Essentials • Week of July 24

## Introduction

What would you be willing to do to save the life of your child or someone you love? What are you willing to do to introduce people around you to the Lord Jesus Christ? Christ Church is willing to do whatever it takes to introduce people to the love of Christ. Our mission statement at Christ Church is “To reach millions of unchurched persons by developing thousands of fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ” – a big mission, but we have a big God. And our God is full of big, unfailing love. Christ Church is about reaching and developing. We want to reach people (individuals and families) who have yet to belong; and then to develop them so that they live into their full potential, with complete commitment to Christ.

This is what God has done for us. God reached for us when He crossed the eternal portals of heaven and came to earth, when He gave the world the gift of His Son. God develops us through the indwelling gift of His very presence – the Holy Spirit. Growing in the image (the Likeness) of Christ is a gradual process, yet, the more we surrender (yield) to the Holy Spirit’s guidance in our lives, the more we will reflect the love of Christ to those around us. A life of faith is all about a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. And though faith in Christ is personal, it is not private. We are to live like Christ as we live in this world, and into His prayer in Matthew 9:35-38, being willing to *work* and pray for *more workers* in His harvest field –

*Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And He healed every kind of disease and illness. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to His disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask Him to send more workers into His fields” (Matthew 9:35-38).*

## Background

When the apostle Paul wrote new believers in the church in Rome, he explained to them that they were no longer obligated to live like the world, slaves to sin. They could now be controlled by the Spirit of Christ as they lived their day-to-day lives. Christ came to this earth in a physical body; but Jesus never sinned. Jesus lived a perfect life, and thus, was qualified to offer Himself as the ultimate perfect

sacrifice to free us (all humanity) from the penalty of sin and death. Paul writes: “So God did what the law could not do. He sent His own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin’s control over us by giving His Son as a sacrifice for our sins” (Romans 8:3b). As we avail ourselves to the Holy Spirit’s control, we will begin to desire what the Spirit of God desires. The Holy Spirit gives us life as we call out to the Lord, and rely upon Him in our everyday struggles. This is essential.

## Reading the Text

### Read Romans 8:1-14

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can we help you?

## In Closing

There is a word in ancient Hebrew that is difficult for our modern English language to translate. It is the word, *hesed*, a word used throughout the Old Testament describing the LORD’s unconditional, eternal, covenant love. A love beyond this world. A love willing to go to any length to save, restore, reconcile and redeem a broken fallen world. Are you willing to love like that? We love because God first loved us. We can forgive because the Lord has forgiven us. Jesus paid a high price on the cross when He gave His life to save us. As Christ followers, the very breath in our lungs belongs to Him. We do not have a claim over our lives anymore. We belong to Christ and Christ belongs to us. We enter into a beautiful covenant that God has made with His Son; and He calls us to live into His covenant love, to do what He does – to *reach* others with His love, and then *develop* them as brothers and sisters in preparation for heaven.

***Close in a Time of Prayer asking:***

How can I pray for my fellow Life Group participants this week?

# Essentials

**Text: Romans 8:1-14**

## Plain Truth:

“To \_\_\_\_\_ millions of unchurched persons by  
\_\_\_\_\_ thousands of fully devoted  
\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.”

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - those who have yet to belong.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - ourselves and others in Christ.

## One Year Bible Readings

July 24: 2 Chronicles 11:1-13:22, Romans 8:26-39, Psalm 18:37-50, Proverbs 19:27-29

July 25: 2 Chronicles 14:1-16:14, Romans 9:1-24, Psalm 19:1-14, Proverbs 20:1

July 26: 2 Chronicles 17:1-18:34, Romans 9:25-10:13, Psalm 20:1-9, Proverbs 20:2-3

July 27: 2 Chronicles 19:1-20:37, Romans 10:14-11:12, Psalm 21:1-13, Proverbs 20:4-6

July 28: 2 Chronicles 21:1-23:21, Romans 11:13-36, Psalm 22:1-18, Proverbs 20:7

July 29: 2 Chronicles 24:1-25:28, Romans 12:1-21, Psalm 22:19-31, Proverbs 20:8-10

July 30: 2 Chronicles 26:1-28:27, Romans 13:1-14, Psalm 23:1-6, Proverbs 20:11

**July 24, 2022**