

Dear Life Group Leaders,

This week's passage is full of encouragement and challenge for us. Here we see Jesus' joy at people finding faith and life in him. And this is something he loves to partner with us in. But, we also know that sharing our faith with others is hard. Many of us struggle with evangelism, and can quickly feel guilty about it. Make efforts then, to keep this study focused on the joy of people discovering Jesus for themselves, and encourage your Life Group towards prayer and simple next steps. Encourage your Life Group to get practical in their application... what specific thing are they going to put in place? Perhaps they are going to seek a specific conversation with an individual, perhaps they need to be more intentional with friendships with those who don't know Jesus? Whatever it is, help each of your Life Group members to leave this study with a clear idea of how they can partner with Jesus and each other in sharing the good news.

God bless,

Andy *(This week's Life Group Guide is brought to you by Andy Tuck, who is on the staff team of our Wimbledon venue)*

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

John 4:31-45

This Week's BIG IDEA: *"Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."*

Please read John 4:31-45.

1. These verses are the second part of a longer narrative. This week we're picking up right where last week left off. So, would someone in the Life Group be able to summarise what happened last week? What were the main points we covered in John 4:1-30?
2. v31, why might this be a concern for the disciples?
[Leaders note: cf John 4:6, Jesus was tired from his journey. He's exhausted, and it's the hottest part of the day. This verse shows the disciples' care of Jesus.]
3. v32-34, what is the food that sustains Jesus? What is the work of the one who sent Jesus?
[Leaders note: that people come to know God and the freedom he offers. The Father loves it when lost things are found. When broken things are remade. He rejoices in the harvest and people turning to him.]
4. v35-38, walk through these verses one at a time. What point is Jesus making here?
[Leaders note: v35, this seems to have been a local proverb, and an encouragement that the harvest is now! v36, this is a cause for celebration! There is joy at the harvest. v37-38, this joy is shared amongst many. This is something that we partner together with God to achieve.]
5. What do you anticipate the reaction would have been from the disciples at this teaching?
[Leaders note: It would have astonished them! That even here, even amongst the Samaritans, the gospel bears fruit! This is a wonderful lesson on the reach of the gospel, it will be proclaimed to the ends of the earth and no one is excluded.]
6. v39-42, what was the reaction of the Samaritans of Sychar?
7. What encouragements can we draw from these verses for how we share our faith with those we know who don't yet know Jesus?
[Leaders note: Hopefully loads of things! This is a joyful work, and it's ready, now. This is something we can do together. The good news transforms lives.]
8. What opportunities have you had recently to tell others about the work Jesus has done in your own life?
[Leaders note: The Samaritan woman is a role model for us in this.]
9. Our next Alpha Course starts in September 2022. Who would you like to introduce to Jesus? Who are you going to invite? Who could you intentionally deepen friendships with over the coming months?
10. What next steps could you make as individuals, and as a Life Group, to introduce people to Jesus?
[Leaders note: There's a whole range of things here. Pray for it more. Seek intentional conversations about Jesus. Partner together. Remember our lost lists?]