

Life Groups

Thank you so much for your ongoing commitment to leading an Everyday Church Life Group. In a growing church it is impossible for anyone to know everyone, but it is essential that everyone know and is known by someone. That is why what you do week in week out is so important and is so valued.

As I said in my introduction to the Vision and Values Life Group Guide, it is likely that there would have been much more interaction around first century preaching. There would have been more participation through Q&A and discussion. Although at times we might try and replicate this on a Sunday, it is hard to do that well in a larger crowd. However, we can, and do, have this opportunity within our Life Groups. It is through the weekly devotions and in our Life Groups that we will have opportunity to unpack the Sunday teaching and bring both application and accountability into one another's lives.

To that end, rather than producing an additional and separate Life Group guide each week, I would like you to continue to use the devotional videos/written devotions to shape the Bible study and discussion in your groups each week. You can access this devotional material through the Everyday App, on the Media section of the website <https://www.everyday.org.uk/> and on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@Everyday.Church>

You may even find it helpful to watch the video devotions as a group as part of your life group meeting. I recognise that not everyone comes to the Life Group meeting having heard or watched the sermon because of serving on a Sunday or work and family commitments. Watching the short devotional video (6-9 minutes) together might be a good way of getting everyone in the same space to then discuss that week's subject.

Each week the written version of the devotion will include scripture references and discussion questions to help your group unpack and apply the sermon from that week.

This is the pattern we started as part of the Vision and Values series and the feedback I received was very positive. However, our goal in these guides has always been to equip you as a Life Group Leadership and if there are other ways of producing these guides, or if you would like us to return to the specific weekly guide, please let us know. You can email me on simon.elliott@everyday.org.uk

Exodus – Weeks 1-6

As I will say in the sermon introducing Exodus, this is not meant to be a sermon series. There are 40 chapters in Exodus, and we are covering the whole book between now and the end of July. We will preach 18 sermons on Exodus, but it will not be a verse-by-verse exposition, that would make our sermons 3 hours long! We have put together a simple reading plan that gives 8-10 verses each day and means we can read through the whole book whilst we are preaching through it. We will also be using the weekly devotions to focus on a particular area or draw out something we did not have time to address in the preach. To help you prayerfully prepare, here are the general themes for the first six weeks:

Wb 26th Feb: Introduction to the big themes of Exodus – highs and lows, patterns of redemption and bumping into Jesus.

Wb 5th Mar: God's otherness and character revealed in his name – the great I AM (Exodus 3)

Wb 12th Mar: Moses a fallible leader with a big call on his life – just like us (Exodus 2-5)

Wb 19th Mar: God's supremacy as the one true God, God's grace and ultimate justice. (Ex 7-10)

Wb 26th Mar: God is in control, but we have choices – the progression of behaviour, to habit, to character. (Ex 5-11)

Wb 2nd April: The Passover lamb, the power of the blood and pointing to Jesus. (Ex 12)

Prayer and Worship – LENT

These 6 weeks will also coincide with Lent. As you know we are encouraging everyone to use this centuries old Christian season to reflect, refresh and renew our rhythms of prayer. If people don't already have a rhythm, they could try the following:

- Early morning: The patterns and principles in the Lord's Prayer
- Lunchtime: Praying for our lost lists and for the households around us to encounter God
- Evening: Prayers of thanksgiving

We are keen to hear anything that God might be saying to us. Please keep giving space in your meetings to fixing our eyes on God in worship and to listening to his voice. People may well feel much more comfortable sharing what they think God might be saying in a Life Group setting than they would approaching an elder or sharing on a Sunday. Please keep encouraging one another in your group to take risks when it comes to the prophetic and the voice of God.

Feel free to feedback anything that comes up in your group to your Pastorate Leader, Venue Leadership team or one of the Elders.