

LIFE GROUP GUIDE – Week Starting 5th October

Key Scripture Acts 2:42-47

This Week's BIG IDEA

This week is part 1 of 2 of looking at what it means to be devoted to the fellowship, in other words the gathering of God's people. The biggest mistake we can make in these two weeks is to turn them into a guilt trip for people to get to church and get to Life Group more regularly. Remember, the people in front of you are already doing that! So what we're aiming for is to help people see the bigger picture, that is they are united *with* Christ, and therefore united *in* Christ, to the people around them. So, your goal is to lift their gaze and focus on Jesus, helping them to see how being a committed part of the gatherings helps them to draw closer to Him, as well as being a blessing to those around them.

Focussing on God

Before you sing worship together, you might find it helpful to have someone read Colossians 1:15-20 and focus on the uniting supremacy of Jesus.

Then, you might sing the classic song *Draw me close to you*:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7d_oYr-P16M

Getting into Scripture

Refresh yourself on the series theme by re-reading together Acts 2:42-47 first. This should become a memory verse for your group by the end of the series!

- Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-9. Do we have everything we need in Christ Jesus, as Paul says? If so, do we actually even need to attend church or be part of a Life Group? Why/Why not?
Leaders note: this is fun way to open up discussion. Of course we lack nothing in Jesus, but there are other reasons why the gatherings are important, as we will go on to see.
- Read John 13:34-35 and 1 John 5:1-3 together. Why do we gather the way we do, in big corporate gatherings and small groups like this one?
Leaders note: Primarily we express our love and devotion to God in the way we love one another.
- What are some ways in which being connected in fellowship helps us to draw closer to Jesus in our own personal lives?
Leaders note: 1 Corinthians 12 is helpful here, to understand unity and diversity in the body.
- How can we make the gatherings of God's people like this feel more like a fellowship rather than just a meeting?
Leaders note: primary ways would be to pray, seek to use your gifts in service of those around you, and if required, reconcile with anyone. Use Matthew 5:23-24 to talk about reconciliation.
- Finally, to encourage one another, spend some time sharing what you've found good and helpful about being connected to Everyday Church. Try and focus on how it has helped you see God in your life more and more, rather than just "the people are nice!" (Although that is wonderful too!)

Pastoral Prayer

Read John 17:9-11 together and use this as a springboard to pray for one another. Be open to the prophetic as you pray remembering that we are called to eagerly desire spiritual gifts when we gather.

Missional Prayer and Feedback

"And the Lord added to their number daily those that were being saved" Acts 2:47

The context for the book of Acts – indeed the whole of scripture – is one of mission. God's plan to call all people to restored relationship. Take time to refresh your lists of those you are praying for and take some time to call out to God for his blessing and work in their lives. Make this a priority when you gather each week.