

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

WELCOME

Narrate why we meet together and go over any important announcements.

****Men, register for retreat at 2rc.org/mensretreat ****

CATCH UP ON LIFE

We catch up on life because we are a family who cares about the ups and downs of one another's lives. Choose 1 question: What were the highs and lows of your summer? Where have you seen Jesus at work this week? How are you doing, really? Are there any significant updates in your life? Are there any big decisions to process with the group?

PAUSE

Before officially beginning group time, have someone lead the group through a pause prayer. Take a few deep breaths. Give everything and everyone to God. What do you need to let go of? Open your heart and mind to hear from Him, and ask the Spirit to lead and guide everything that follows.

IMPACT

We take time to discuss impact because we need to be reminded to walk in the compassion Jesus walked in. When we see the lost, hurting, and broken people around us we want to move toward them with compassion, just like Jesus. He wasn't afraid to be distinct among sinners. **What person do you want to grow in compassion toward? Take time to pray for opportunities to be around people who don't yet know Jesus.**

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

We love the Bible. We believe God's Word strengthens, renews, and unites us. That's why we open physical Bibles together. Phones can easily distract us, but there is something meaningful about seeing God's Word with our own eyes, holding it in our hands, and experiencing it together.

Passage to discuss: 1 John 5:13, 2:3-6

Meditate on the passage for a moment. **What do you see about God?**

Apply it to life. **If this is true, what does it change for us?**

Apply it to impact. **If this is true, how does it inform our mission?**

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SERMON DISCUSSION

We continue to discuss the truths from the sermon because we want to grow in them. As we discuss together, we learn from one another as a family, and the truth goes deeper into our hearts! Have someone briefly recap the sermon (just a few minutes).

What is the danger in people claiming to know Jesus but not keeping his commands?

What is the intended direction of the love of God? Why does it matter that obedience is not at the beginning of the know → love → trust → obey cycle? What is at stake if

we get the order backwards? If we are to walk as Jesus walked, how then did he walk?

Of the 5 ways we discussed, which of those do you sense God inviting you into? What

“renovation” has God been doing in your life lately? Have you experienced a sense of

“boredom” or settling lately? If so, how is Jesus inviting you into more?

ENGAGE THE HEART

One of the ways we can know that we know Him is that we obey His commands. One of His commands is to walk in the light and confess our sins to one another! During Engage the Heart, we have the opportunity to walk in that obedience, and as we do, we find freedom and healing! [John 15:4, 1 John 1:8-9, James 5:16, and 1 John 1:5-10]

- Cast vision for this time.
- Confess sin.
- Prayerfully listen for God to lead.
- Dig deeper by asking questions.
- Give gospel assurance to one another.
- Pray.

What is Jesus changing/renovating in you during this season? What area of your life have you been tempted to leave “off limits” to Jesus? Where are you settling for cheap thrills? Where do you sense Jesus inviting you into greater holiness?

Is there anything disrupting your union with God? What is the good news of the gospel for what has been confessed?
