



LIFEgroup STUDY GUIDE

What you will need to supplement this guide:

1. A copy of the outline provided for notes on this message (copy from message or downloaded from the COASTAL APP).
2. A Bible or Bible APP to refer to verses.

PURSUING LIFE TOGETHER *SUNDAY MESSAGE REVIEW*

NOTE to the LIFEgroup Leader: This guide is provided as a tool to assist you in facilitating a structured discussion with your group. When used in conjunction with the outline notes and a Bible this tool will ensure that your group will *Engage Authentically*. The questions are merely recommended “talk starters”. It is important for you to let God help you navigate through the conversation as you *pursue life together* as a group.

OPEN IN PRAYER

STARTER QUESTIONS:

Where have you seen God at work in your life since we last met?

What stood out to you from the message this week?

MAIN IDEA:

- REVIEW THE MAIN TOPIC OF THE MESSAGE. Allow time for discussion
- READ THE MAIN SCRIPTURE FROM THE MESSAGE OUTLINE.

How did this verse speak to you in your life?

- REVIEW THE SUB-TOPICS of the MESSAGE.

Have someone read each of the verses that were highlighted in the message, and briefly discuss.

Is there an area that you feel God is speaking to you through this message?

FINAL THOUGHTS:

- SUMMARIZE the main idea of this message.

Would anyone like to share your thoughts about what we discussed today?

How can we pray for you as a group?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

HELP MY UNBELIEF!

“Why is there Suffering?”

*“The father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; **help my unbelief!**”*

Mark 9:24 (NKJV)

Jesus: *“Here on earth you **will** have many trials and sorrows.”* John 16:33 (NLT)

Marker #1: Christianity gives the best explanation for good and evil.

- God is not real – Evil is real (Atheism)
- God is real – Evil is not real (Hinduism; New Age)
- God is real – Evil is real (Christianity)

Marker #2: Free Will helps explain why evil was allowed in the world.

What is Free Will? Our God-given ability to make choices (good or bad).

Marker #3: If you stick with Him, God’s promises can restore hope!

- God is closer than you think

*“**The Lord is close** to those whose hearts are breaking.”*

Psalms 34:18-19 (TLB)

*“God has said, “**Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.**” So we say with confidence,
“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.”*

Hebrews 13:5-6 (NIV)

*“God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though **he is not far** from each one of us.”*

Acts 17:27 (NIV)

- God understands what you’re going through.

“He was despised and rejected-- a man of sorrows, acquainted with bitterest grief... he was wounded and crushed.... He was beaten.... He was whipped.... He was oppressed and treated harshly...”

Isaiah 53:3-7 (NLT)

- God's mercies are new every morning

*"The thought of my suffering and homelessness is bitter beyond words. I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. Yet **I still dare to hope** when I remember this: The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning..."*

Lamentations 3:19-25 (NLT)

*"The Lord is good to those who **depend** on him."*

Lamentations 3:19-25 (NLT)

- God is closer than you think
- God understands what you're going through.
- God's mercies are new every morning