



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

RESIST

“Myths”

“Jesus said to his followers, ‘There are many people to harvest but only a few workers to help harvest them. Pray to the Lord, who owns the harvest, that he will send more workers to gather his harvest.’”
Matthew 9:37-38 (NCV)

“What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church?” 1 Corinthians 5:12 (NIV)

Sampson: a Judge who ruled over Israel before the time of kings:

- Supernatural Strength
- Anger problem
- Sexual Addiction

“Samson went down to Timnah and saw there a young Philistine woman. When he returned, he said to his father and mother, ‘I have seen a Philistine woman in Timnah; now get her for me as my wife.’ His father and mother replied, ‘Isn’t there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?’ But Samson said to his father, ‘Get her for me. She’s the right one for me.’”

Judges 14:1-3 (NIV)

Myths of Today’s Culture:

1. “Following your heart will lead to ultimate happiness.”

“The sexual liberation revolution of the 1960s set in motion a cascade effect: the reversal of the long-standing moral consensus around promiscuity (which separated sex from marriage) worked in tandem with the advent of birth control and the legalization of abortion (which separated sex from procreation), which moved on to the legalization of no-fault divorce (which separated sex from intimacy and fidelity), then to Tinder and hookup culture (which separated sex from romance”). From there it’s moved on to the LGBTQI+ revolution (which separated sex from the male-female binary), the transgender wave (which attempts to separate gender from biological sex), and the polyamory movement (an attempt to move beyond two-person relationships).

Amid the revolution, the questions nobody seems to even be asking are, Is this making us better people? Or even happier people? Are we thriving in a way we weren’t prior to our “liberation”? Nobody is really even asking these questions.” -John Mark Comer, “Live No Lies”

Research:

- Happiness levels have been in decline in the US since the ’60s. interesting coincidence.
- Divorce is tied to the rising number who struggle to develop healthy relationships as adults¹
- Those who live together before marriage are less likely to marry², are more likely to get a divorce if they do³, and often develop long-term trust issues⁴.
- The more sexual partners you have, the less capacity your body has for longterm bonding.⁵
- The negative effects of abortion on women’s mental and physical health.⁶

- The evidence that children who spend portions of their childhood without a father in the home is damaging to both boys and girls.^{7 8}
- Sex reassignment surgery and hormone therapy for those who identify as transgender do not benefit their emotional health (which is the main rationale behind them).⁹
- Porn is now a multibillion-dollar industry, intentionally targeting children.¹⁰

“Sin is unwillingness to trust that what God wants for me is only my deepest happiness.”

-Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits religious order

“One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her.”
Judges 16:1 (NIV)

2. “Sex is not a big deal – it’s only physical.”

“Don't you realize that your bodies are actually parts of Christ? Should a man take his body, which belongs to Christ, and join it to a prostitute? Never! And don't you know that if a man joins himself to a prostitute, he becomes one body with her? For the Scriptures say, "The two are united into one." But the person who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Run away from sexual sin!”
1 Corinthians 6:15-18 (NIV)

“Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah.”
Judges 16:4 (NIV)

3. “Love is just a feeling”

Paul's definition of love:

“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.”
1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT)

4. “I can get away with it.”

Delilah *“...called, ‘Samson, the Philistines are upon you!’ He awoke from his sleep and thought, ‘I’ll go out as before and shake myself free.’” But he did not know that the Lord had left him.”*
Judges 16:20 (NIV)

“Remember that you can't ignore God and get away with it; a man will always reap just the kind of crop he sows! If he sows to please his own wrong desires, he will be planting seeds of evil and will surely reap a harvest of spiritual decay and death.”
Galatians 6:7-8 (LB)

5. “There’s no redemption or forgiveness or healing for sexual sin.”

“Then Samson prayed to the Lord, ‘Sovereign Lord, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more...”
Judges 16:28 (NIV)

"The blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from every sin... if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong."

1 John 1:7-9 (NLT)

"Since he (Jesus) himself has gone through suffering and temptation, he is able to help us when we are being tempted."

Hebrews 2:18 (NLT)

NOTES:

1. Brittany Almony, "Attachment Theory and Children of Divorce," Bartleby Research, May 10, 2015, www.bartleby.com/essay/Attachment-Theory-And-Children-Of-Divorce-F3UTUVQ3FV8X
2. www.prb.org/cohabiting-couple-staying-together-longer.
3. Scott Stanley, "Premarital Cohabitation Is Still Associated with Greater Odds of Divorce," Institute for Family Studies, October 17, 2018, <https://ifstudies.org/blog/premarital-cohabitation-is-still-associated-with-greater-odds-of-divorce>.
4. Juliana Menasce Horowitz, Nikki Graf, and Gretchen Livingston, "Marriage and Cohabitation in the U.S.," Pew Research Center, November 6, 2019, www.pewsocialtrends.org/2019/11/06/marriage-and-cohabitation-in-the-u-s.
5. Abigail Tucker, "What Can Rodents Tell Us About Why Humans Love?," Smithsonian Magazine, February 2014, www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/what-can-rodents-tell-us-about-why-humans-love-180949441.
6. "The Long-Term Effects of Abortion," Epigee Women's Health, www.epigee.org/the-long-term-effects-of-abortion.html.
7. "The Proof Is In: Father Absence Harms Children," National Fatherhood Initiative, www.fatherhood.org/father-absence-statistic.
8. "The Consequences of Fatherlessness," fathers.com, <https://fathers.com/statistics-and-research/the-consequences-of-fatherlessness/>.
9. See this simple but excellent overview of the largest study so far: Ryan T. Anderson, " 'Transitioning 'Procedures Don't Help Mental Health, Largest Dataset Shows," The Heritage Foundation, August 3, 2020, www.heritage.org/gender/commentary/transitioning-procedures-dont-help-mental-health-largest-dataset-shows.
10. Audrey Conklin, "Hawley, Sasse Lead Charge Against Pornhub, Human Trafficking," FoxNews, December 9, 2020, www.foxnews.com/politics/hawley-sasse-lead-charge-against-pornhub-human-trafficking; see also Exec. Order No. 13903, Fed Reg. Doc. 2020-02438 (January 31, 2020), www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/02/05/2020-02438/combating-human-trafficking-and-online-child-exploitation-in-the-united-states.