



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

REBUILD "Resolving Conflict"

"I don't want to be a part of a rebuild, if I'm going to keep playing." -Aaron Rodgers

Causes of Conflict:

"Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their fellow Jews. Some were saying, "We and our sons and daughters are numerous; in order for us to eat and stay alive, we must get grain." Others were saying, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our homes to get grain during the famine." Still others were saying, "We have had to borrow money to pay the king's tax on our fields and vineyards. Although we are of the same flesh and blood as our fellow Jews and though our children are as good as theirs, yet we have to subject our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but we are powerless, because our fields and our vineyards belong to others." Nehemiah 5:1-5 (NIV)

4 Complaints:

1. Food Shortage (vs. 2: "...we must get grain.")
2. Financial Bondage (vs. 3: "we are mortgaging... to get grain.")
3. High Taxes (vs. 4 "had to borrow... to pay... taxes.")
4. Slave Labor (vs. 5 "we have to subject our sons and daughters to slavery.")

The real problem:

(vs. 1) *"Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their Jewish brothers."*

The root cause of internal conflict is always selfishness.

"What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but you don't get it." James 4:1 (NIV)

The Cure For Conflict (vs. 6-13)

1. Get Angry

"When I heard their outcry and these charges I was very angry." (vs.6)

"Be ye angry, and sin not." Eph. 4:26 (KJV)

There is a right kind of anger and a wrong kind of anger.
Wisdom is knowing the difference.

"INDIGNATION FATIGUE: Many of us seem to have lost the capacity to get mad about lying, cheating and stealing. To be indifferent to wrong doing, to shrug it off and laugh at it is a symptom of advanced degeneration of the moral sense. Someone seems to have administered a massive dose of novocaine to our national conscious." -Louis Cossell

2. Think before you speak.

"So after thinking about it, I spoke out against these rich government officials ..."
(vs 7 -- LB)

"Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life God desires." James 1:19-20 (NIV)

3. Privately confront the offending party.

"I then accused the nobles and officials. I told them `You are exacting usury from your own countrymen!'" (vs. 7b)

"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector."

Matthew 18:15-17 (NIV)

4. Publicly deal with public divisions.

"So I called together a large meeting to deal with them..." (vs. 7c)

5. Set an example of unselfishness.

"But out of reverence for God I did not act like that. Instead, I devoted myself to the work on this wall."
Neh. 5:15-16 (NIV)

"Follow my example as I have followed the example of Christ." 1 Cor. 11:1 (NIV)