



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

I BELIEVE, BUT...
"Is the Church against Women?"

Example: "Women shouldn't talk in church." (1 Corinthians 14:34-35)

Biblical Interpretation Principle #1: We have to distinguish between universal application and specific application.

- "Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:39
- "It is good for a man to have no sexual contact with a woman." 1 Corinthians 7:1
- "Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

Biblical Interpretation Principle #2: We have to take into account the whole of scripture, rather than base interpretation on isolated scriptures.

Scriptural Basis For Women in Ministry:

- Look at God's intent in creation when he made human beings in his own image, male and female, and gave them co-dominion over creation.

"So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it." Genesis 1:27-28 (NLT)

- Look at the leadership roles of women in the Old Testament. Women like Deborah (Judge) and Huldah (Prophet) and Miriam (Prophetess)
- Look at the radical new attitude towards women that Jesus showed, which was so different than anything else going on in his day.
 - Jesus had women disciples (Luke 10:38-42; John 4:27-42)
 - Jesus had women traveling as part of His ministry team (Luke 8:2-3)
 - Jesus had women financially supporting the ministry (Luke 8:3b)

In the Roman World: Women were not permitted to give legal testimony

"Let not the testimony of women be admitted." –Josephus, Ancient Israeli Historian

In Jesus' World: Women were the first witnesses of the Resurrection

Women were first to the manger
Women were first to the cross
Women were first to the resurrection

- Look at the leadership roles women in the New Testament church were serving in: prophets (Acts 21:9), teachers (Acts 18:26), ministers (Romans 16:1-3), leaders in worship services (I Corinthians 11:4-5) and co-workers with the Apostle Paul (Philippians 4:2-3)
- Look how the Holy Spirit empowers both men and women, young and old to speak for God (Acts 2:17-18)
- Look at the passages about spiritual gifts where there is no mention of distinctions based on gender (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:28-30; Ephesians 4:11)
- Look at the passages where all people, in Christ, both male and female, are to be submissive to one another and to serve one another in reciprocal love and obedience to Jesus (Ephesians 5:21; Philippians 2:3-4; Galatians 5:13)