

Life Group 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 Life Group 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

GROW
“Maturity”

“What you are is God's gift to you... what you become is your gift to God.”

God’s goal for us:

“From the very beginning God decided that those who came to him... should become like His son...” Rom. 8:29 (LB)

	SPIRITUAL		MATURITY	
PHASES	Infancy	Childhood	Teenager	Adulthood
Primary Task	Becoming a Member of the Family	Becoming a Meaningful Part of the Family	Accepting Responsibility in the Family	<u>Reproducing</u> Their Own Family
God's Word	Being Fed	Learning to Feed Self	Learning to <u>Cook</u>	Feeding Others
Key Verse	<p><i>“To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”</i></p> <p>John 1:12</p>	<p><i>“Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong.”</i></p> <p>Colossians 2:7</p>	<p><i>“Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example... Do not neglect your (Spiritual) gift... Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.”</i></p> <p>1 Timothy 4:12-15</p>	<p><i>“The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.”</i></p> <p>2 Timothy 2:2</p>

“He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.” Colossians 1:28-29

Jesus’ Story of the Soils
 Farmer = God Seed = God’s Word Soil = My Life

1. Hard Hearts

"The hard path where some of the seeds fell represents the heart of a person who hears the Good News about the Kingdom and doesn't understand it; then Satan comes and snatches away the seeds from his heart." Matt 13:19 (TLB)

- Shallow Hearts

"The shallow, rocky soil represents the heart of a man who hears the message and receives it with real joy, but he doesn't have much depth in his life, and the seeds don't root very deeply, and after a while when trouble comes, or persecution begins because of his beliefs, his enthusiasm fades, and he drops out." Matt 13:20-21 (TLB)

Commitments for Spiritual Growth:

- Get baptized
- Sign up for Growth Track
- Connect with a Life Group

- Busy Hearts

"The thorny ground represents those who hear and accept the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity." Luke 8:14 (NLT)

"My caution to you is this: Do not assume you are good soil. I think most American churchgoers are the soil that chokes the seed because of all the thorns. Thorns are anything that distracts us from God. When we want God and a bunch of other stuff, then that means we have thorns in our soil. A relationship with God simply cannot grow when money, sins, activities, favorite sports teams, addictions, or commitments are piled on top of it. I will say it again: Do not assume you are good soil. Has your relationship with God actually changed the way you live? Do you see evidence of God's kingdom in your life? Or are you choking it out slowly by spending too much time, energy, money, and thought on the things of this world?"

— "Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God" by Francis Chan