



# 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...**  
What About Suffering?

"If I'm a Christian, and I obey God, I won't or shouldn't suffer."

*"Many are the **afflictions** of the **righteous**, but the Lord delivers him out of them all."*  
Psalm 34:19 (ESV)

*"Indeed, **all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted**..."*  
2 Timothy 3:12 (ESV)

*"For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only **believe in him but also suffer for his sake**, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have."*  
Philippians 1:29-30 (ESV)

*"...In the world **you will have tribulation**. But take heart; I have overcome the world."*  
John 16:33 (ESV)

We believe the lie or live like it's true because everything we are familiar with is conditional!

*"In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."*  
1 Peter 1:6-7 (ESV)

We'll never know the strength of our faith in God until it is tried by fire!

**I acknowledge your suffering.**

*"...Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him."*  
John 9:2-3 (ESV)

*"...Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning."*  
Psalm 30:5 (NLT)

## Let's acknowledge these 3 things about suffering:

1. Suffering is real and happens to all of us.

*"Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you."* 1 Peter 4:12 (NLT)

2. Suffering is NOT always your fault.

*"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."* Romans 8:28 (NLT)

3. Suffering isn't always fair as we perceive fairness.

## Logical response to suffering

The ONLY WAY LOVE can be real is if it's a choice.

It's a consequence of sin!

There could be a logical reason for natural evil that we just don't know yet?

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."*

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (ESV)

## Emotional response to suffering

He was suffering for us and with us!