



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

LEAN IN
“How to Understand Scripture”

Improper practices for understanding Scripture:

1. Using the Xanax method

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Philippians 4:6 (ESV)

“I am fearfully and wonderfully made...” Psalm 139:14 (ESV)

“Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” Romans 15:4 (NIV)

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?” Jeremiah 17:9 (ESV)

2. Using the Magic 8 Ball method

How to gain better understanding of the Bible:

1. Adjust your lens

The Bible is one complete story, beginning to end.

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.” 2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)

2. Get Curious

Exegesis - “Led out of” or “derived from”

Eisegesis - “Led into” or “put into”

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

Ask questions:

- Who is writing and who is it addressed to?
- What are they trying to communicate?
- What type of literary form is being used?
- What cultural or historical context needs to be taken into account?
- Where does this fall in the greater story of the Bible?
- Where do I see God in this passage?

3. Ask God to Speak to you

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”
James 1:5 (NIV)

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” John 14:26 (ESV)

Resources:

Understanding the Bible as a complete story

- The Bible App
- Bible Recap study plan

Getting curious

- Look for cross references, and notes in your Bible
- Study Bible
- Right Now Media- How to Study Your Bible

Additional resources

- Concordance
- Commentaries
- Community