



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

UNBREAKABLE THREAD

“Love is Patient”

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.”
1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (ESV)

How would you read a 20 page letter from a loved one?

Spiritual gifts are supernatural powers distributed by the Holy Spirit to fulfill God’s will and the mission of the church.

“Patience isn’t a gift of the Spirit, Patience is fruit of the Spirit.”

4 Areas where Christians should be more patient:

1. Patient outside the church.

We will never get to compassion if we don’t have patience!

Patience outside the church:

- Respond to bad attitudes with the grace that God responds with us.
- Be intentional about our pursuit of compassion.
- Pray this prayer: “Lord, help me see them the way you see them.”

2. Patient within the church.

*“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to **walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called** with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”*

Ephesians 4:1-3 (ESV)

Christ followers are often more EAGER to be justified than to maintain unity.

Patience inside the church:

- Give people the benefit of the doubt unless they explicitly show you that they don’t deserve it.
- Ask clarifying questions before you come to conclusions.
- If someone offends you, talk to them first!

3. Be patient with yourself.

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”
Galatians 6:9 (ESV)

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.” John 15:4 (ESV)

So what does this look like practically?

- Stay connected to the vine!
 - No matter what you are going through, stay connected to the vine because outside of the vine there is no life!
- Allow the Holy Spirit to prune us!
 - What God shows you to cut off, cut it off and leave it off! What God tells you to pick up, pick it up and carry it! It takes obedience and time to see the fruit of the Spirit

4. Be patient with God

“Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!” Psalm 27:14 (NKJV)

“Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for Him to act.” Psalm 37:7 (NLT)

“I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in His word I put my hope.” Psalm 130:5 (NIV)

“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean NOT on your own understanding...” Proverbs 3:5 (NIV)

So what does that look like practically?

- Continuing to pray
- Don't just seek God's hand, seek His face!
- Don't quit on God!

Who outside the church needs more patience from me?

Who inside the church needs more patience from me?

Where should I be more self-patient?

Where should I be more patient with God?