

Holy Week



LIFEGroup Gathering Guide

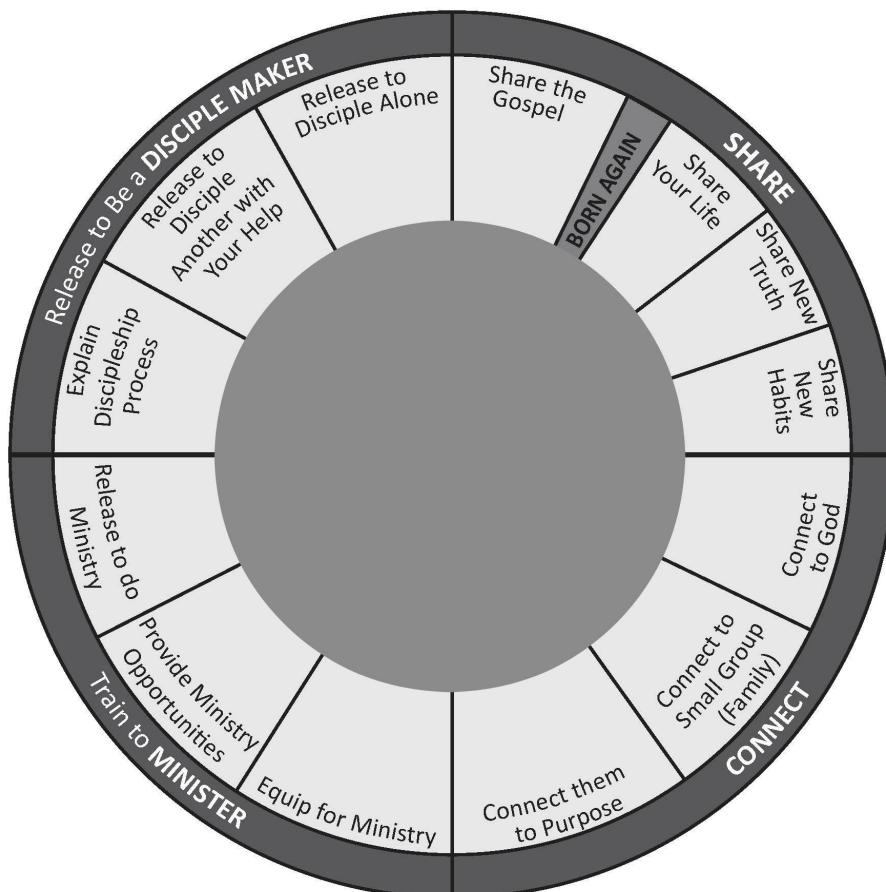
Holy Week Message Series

4/10/22-4/16/22

About LIFEGroups

LIFEGroups are small communities that follow Jesus on mission together! LIFEGroups help us as we each individually and as a church journey along the Discipleship Pathway of Connecting with God, Loving our Neighbors, and Serving our City. LIFEGroups usually gather weekly or every other week for community, to process through the content of that week's message, and to encourage one another as we seek to live out our faith and make a difference in our city. For more information or to join a

LIFEGroup, visit SJDenver.org / RenewalDenver.org





LIFEGroup Relational Guidelines

TIME: Please be sensitive about the amount of time you share. Group time is limited.

I will seek to avoid conversation dominating.

LISTENING: We seek to cultivate a group culture in which everyone can be real and open about their struggles and celebrations. If we feel like we must normally “wear a mask,” this is an environment in which we are encouraged to “take it off.”

I commit to being an understanding listener. I will not hold side conversations while you are sharing. Before responding; I will first seek to listen to you all the way through. If your struggles are emotional, financial, legal, medical, relational, spiritual, sexual, or any other, I endeavor not to be surprised. I endeavor not to offer advice without your permission.

CONFIDENTIALITY: What is said in the group stays in the group.

I promise to hold your words in confidence. They stay with me.

“I” STATEMENTS: It’s easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use “I” statements rather than “you”, “them”, “they”, etc.

SELF-AWARENESS: Be aware of how you are personally affecting the environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication.

SILENCE: Can play an important role in group discussion as it allows for people to process the topic or question being considered. Don’t always jump right in - give people a moment.

CONFLICT: We will resolve conflict biblically. When conflict or sin issues between group members arise, we make sure to honor God and each other in the ways that resolve issues. The following are a few key Scriptures in this regard:

- If someone sins against you - *Matthew 18:15-20*
- Restoring someone in sin - *Galatians 6:1-5*
- Forgive a sinner - *Colossians 3:12-13*
- Reconciling differences - *Matthew 5:23-24, Matthew 7:1-5*

Group Prayer Ideas

Pray for Each Other

- Everyone share their prayer requests before entering into the time of prayer;
- As you open a time of spontaneous prayer, ask people to pray for each other's requests / not their own;
- *Option: Have one person record the group's prayers in a prayer journal. Periodically review the journal to see just how much God answers prayer!*
- *Option: Conclude with the Lord's Prayer or Apostle's Creed.*
- *Option: Do a "Prayer Exchange," assigning people to pray for one another this week, & text as you do.*

Responsive Psalm Prayer

- Choose a psalm (ex: 13, 116, 136, 139, etc.);
- Have the leader and the people pray through the Psalm by trading verses responsively, OR go around the circle and have each person take the next verse.

Missional Prayer

- Have everyone go around and pray specifically for a non-Christian friend, neighbor, co-worker, etc.
- *Option: Have everyone use the "MissionHub" app to set a prayer reminder for that person OR write the name on a 3x5 index card, take it with them and put it somewhere that they'll see it.*

Category Prayer

- The leader guides the group by inviting spontaneous prayer around a "category" at a time, allowing a couple of minutes per category;

Ex: Relational Circles

Our Families
Our Church
Our Neighbors
Our Co-Workers
Our City
Our Country
Our World

Ex: A.C.T.S.

Adoration
Confession
Thanksgiving
Supplication

Ex: Lord's Prayer

Petition 1: Holy Be Your Name
Petition 2: Your Kingdom Come
Petition 3: Your Will Be Done
Petition 4: Give us Today our Daily Bread
Petition 5: Forgive us our Trespasses
Petition 6: Lead us Not into Temptation
Petition 7: Deliver us from Evil

Ex: Healing

Physical
Emotional
Spiritual

Simultaneous Prayer

- Set a timer (ex: 3 min) and ask everyone to pray simultaneously (out loud) until the timer runs out.

Timed Prayer

- Set a timer (ex: 20 min) and then go around the circle taking turns praying until the timer runs out.

Palm Sunday
Palm Sunday
John 12:12-19

TALK IT OVER

Parallel Scripture

28 And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 29 When he drew near to Bethpage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, 30 saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" 32 So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. 33 And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" 34 And they said, "The Lord has need of it." 35 And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. 36 And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. 37 As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, 38 saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" 39 And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." 40 He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

Luke 19:28-40

Search for the "Renewal Church Denver" app or "St. John's Denver" app in your app store. More of God's truth all week long at renewaldenver.tv and sjdenver.tv

Start Talking: Find a conversation starter for your group. (15 Min)

- What do you think of when you think of Palm Branches?
- Does anyone know why we start off Holy week with Palm Sunday?

Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. (10 Min)

- As you reflect on the Palm Sunday message, what is one principle or insight that sticks out to you?
- Read John 12:12-19 What did it mean to the people in Jerusalem to see Jesus coming in riding on a colt of a donkey?
- Read Luke 19:28-40 what details are included in this narrative? Why are they important?

Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness. (10 Min)

- What emotions do you carry over from Palm Sunday to Good Friday?
- The word Hosanna means save us, what were they wanting to be saved from? What are you wanting to be saved from?

Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week. (10 Min)

- How can prepare your heart for the joy of Easter this week? What is something you can do with your friends or your family?
- Make plans to worship at St. John's or Renewal Church this next Week! Both Churches will have Easter Egg hunts and many other fun things for you and your family to do.

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. (15 Min)

- For suggestions on structuring prayer time, see the *Group Prayer Ideas* page in this packet.

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. (15 Min)

1. What's a passage of scripture that has impacted you this week? Read it to the group and explain why.
2. Is there anything God is leading you to repent of?
3. How's your weekly 3-2-1 challenge going? (*3 Conversations with New People, Learn 2 Names, Make 1 Meaningful Connection*)
4. Who is one non-believer that you need to reach out to this week?
5. What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week?
6. Pray for one another.

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