

Key Scripture

“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.” – Psalm 133 (ESV)

“As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy.” – 2 Timothy 1:4 (ESV)

“Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete.” – 2 John 1:12 (ESV)

“9 Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, 10 for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more,” – 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 (ESV)

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 kind of friend group did you roll with in High School?
- How would you define community? What are its marks?

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

- Read 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10. What does God desire for us in Christian community? How has he shown us examples of this in His Word?
- Read Psalm 133, how would you describe the joys of unity in community?

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

- Baptism starts your journey of faith, and is the entrance rite to the Christian community/church. How does that set the stage for defining what Christian community looks like?
- What are some factors that hold a community together? How does Jesus hold Christian community together? Can you have a strong community if Jesus is the only thing holding you together?
- In the first few centuries after Jesus ascended, churches were typically smaller and met in homes. How does Christian worship today compare? Why does it make small groups so important?
- How do we rob ourselves and our church if our only interaction that we have with our fellow church members is on Sunday?

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

- Who is someone you can invite into your LIFEGroup?
- How can you increase your interaction with fellow LIFEGroup members this week?
- Have you thought of what it would be like to start your own LIFEGroup? What’s holding you back?

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.

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.