



CITIZENS CHURCH

Sunday, January 04, 2026

(5-10 min) Optional Ice Breaker: Did you stay up until midnight to ring in the New Year? If so, how did you celebrate?

LEADERS: Please share these announcements at the start of group time.

Announcements

HOME GROUP ASSESSMENTS:

January is here! Time to reflect on God's activity in our Home Group and how we can continue to work with him to *build community, pursue sanctification, and live on mission* together.

Our Home Group Assessment will spark fun, important, and fruitful conversations, and we (HG Leaders) will guide our group through the assessment in the weeks to come.

Leader: *Find the Assessment PDFs for you and your group attached to this week's email newsletter.*

HOME GROUP WINTER SOCIAL:

Save the date for our Home Groups Winter Social! - Sunday, January 25 | 6-7:30pm | Citizens Foyer.

HG Socials are festive events designed to help us connect with other Citizens members according to interests or geographical location. It's a great way to build more community. Sign up to bring your favorite dessert, and Citizens will provide the hot chocolate and cider! Register now: <https://citizenschurch.com/Registration/hg-winter-social-2026>



CITIZENS
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The Lord's Prayer | Sunday, November 23, 2025

Leaders: *This event announcement is not on the main website, so please share the registration link with your group members!*

HOME GROUP MULTIPLICATION:

Citizens Home Groups ministry is growing! New group leaders are needed. So, if you're curious about HG Leadership or Co-leadership, please visit our next HG Leader Interest Meeting (Sunday, Jan 25 | 11am-12:15pm) to learn more. Sign up at <https://citizenschurch.com/Event/580> or email group@citizenschurch.com.

Leaders Only: *Is your group OPEN and ready to welcome others? If so...*

- *Email us at groups@citizenschurch.com to tell us your group is OPEN. We'll respond with next steps!*
- *Update the HG [Placement sheet](#) with your current group status (columns H-J)*
- *Update your group Roster in the [church database](#).*

Read God's Word Aloud

Ecclesiastes 3:11-13

11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. **12** I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; **13** also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

1 John 2:17

17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.



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Discuss God's Word and God's World

Important: *The goal is never to “get through” every question like a checklist. It's ok to linger on a few questions if they spark sanctifying discussion or opportunities for intercessory prayer.*

Start here: *Take a few moments to reflect together on this week's Bible passage. Share what stands out to you or what impacted you from Sunday's sermon from the Scriptures.*

- What do you think and feel about the idea that life is beyond your control? How did you experience that in 2025?
 - In what ways do you try to control what is uncontrollable? Are you more likely to search for knowledge, try harder, or something else?
 - When have you gotten something you really wanted only to discover it did not provide what you *really* wanted?
 - In your life today, how are you experiencing that life is a gift from God? (Eccl. 3:13)
 - What gifts from God are you most likely to miss when life is difficult or painful?
 - During Sunday's sermon, Jamin asked an important question. Take the time to discuss your answers together:
 “What would it look like to center your life on the conviction that a happy God made you and gave you your life as a happy gift?”
 - How does the gospel shape your understanding of God's goodness and generosity?
 - What three gifts from God are you most grateful for in your life right now?
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Sanctificational Prayer Guidance

Praise God for your life. Worship him for giving your life and for sustaining it.



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Father, Son, Holy Spirit: life is hard. Much of it seems like a meaningless chase after the wind. But we remember now that you made us on purpose, with purpose. And we thank you now for all the good you have done, are doing, and will do.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you rest in the reality that God's generosity is deeper than life's brutality.
