



LifeGroup Guide

"There are some questions pertaining to the future world we must answer, or our spiritual well-being is impossible. What am I? And wither am I going? Does man cease to be when he ceases to breath?...The astronomer with his telescope penetrates the deep blue ether, and reveals worlds and systems of worlds, but he cannot look in on the throne of God and tell whether he will forgive sin, or whether he will provide any way to save the fallen. The chemist cannot with his blowpipe, crucible, and alkalies, torture nature into a revelation of the great secret whether, when a man dies, he will live again. Philosophy, chemistry, astronomy...carry us not one step beyond the grave."

- Cornelius Tyree

1. Catch Up On Life:

This is when we update each other on the day in and day out happenings of our lives. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we're praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

- **Celebrate the wins** - where have you seen Jesus working in the last week (shaping you to be more like Himself or working in the lives of those that He's put around you)?
- What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)?

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives, and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

2. Review the Mission:

Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us out as ambassadors of His reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

People:

- **Reactive** - Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?
- **Proactive** - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (neighbors, STC partner organizations, or a specific demographic in Columbia)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve and build relationships with this group?

Plan:

- Are there any rhythms already planned, or an extra rhythm we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?

Pray: Prayer is the fuel of God's mission. Let's pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.

3. Sermon Discussion:

God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, to equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, to show us our sin, and to strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a LifeGroup throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25)

Primary Passages: John 8:12-14; John 12:32-36

Read and Recap: Have someone read **John 8:12-14** and **12:32-36** and recap the highlights from this week's sermon.

The sermon argued that when we operate from the darkness, all we can do is speculate about what is ultimately true. We fumble around in the dark of our feelings and experiences, out of those we develop beliefs about ourselves, God and the world - and then we decide what must be true from that.

Speculation

Feelings/Experiences → Beliefs about Self/World → Truth

- Where do you see yourself basing your life on speculation?
- Where do you see other people operating from speculation?

Jesus calls us to follow him out of the darkness and into the light where he determines what is true. Instead of speculation, we are invited to base our lives on his revelation. In the light of revelation, God's truth informs our beliefs, which in turn gives shape and correction to our feelings and experiences.

Revelation

Truth → Beliefs about Self/World → Feelings/Experiences

- How does God's revelation free you from the falsehoods you are tempted to believe?

- Are there any steps you need to take to repent, follow Jesus out of the darkness, and base your life on his revelation?

*Every Group
Around
The Pool*

- How does the promise of a future heaven free you up to live life on mission?
- What are ways your LifeGroup can sacrificially and fearlessly love the people God has placed around us in light of the promise of heaven to come?

Pray that our LifeGroups and church family would be confidently rooted in the truth of who Jesus is as He has revealed Himself to us in Scripture.

Pray that we would make every effort to continually question whether our actions or feelings are rooted in the truth of the gospel or not.

4. Engage the Heart:

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)

- What are some unhealthy things you've done in the last week to escape from responsibility, fear, or pressure?
- What true things about who Jesus is and who He has made you to be would help free you up in these areas? (Rest of LG speak into their lives: How does the gospel address and free him/her up?)
- What steps of repentance do you need to take? How can we help you walk in repentance?

Pray: James tells us that a community that regularly confesses sin and prays for each other will see a lot of healing. Confess your sins in prayer and pray for each other.