



LifeGroup Guide

"The Lord prunes, and we grow. Jesus says, 'I am what you could not be, but I am going to grow you in who I am... How? I'm going to prune you so you can grow more.'"

Matt Chandler

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 Passage: John 15:1-11

Read and Recap: Have someone read **John 15:1-11** and recap the highlights from this week's sermon.

Read John 15:1-2. Jesus says that He is the vine and that His Father is the vinedresser- cultivating what is good and pruning what is harming the fruit.

- What areas of your life have you written off- resorting to believing that some things about you will just never change?
- Are there areas of your life where God has been pruning you? Do you trust that He has done this with your good in mind? Why or why not?
- Since God is a good vinedresser, are there instances in your past that you need to reframe with the understanding that God pruned them with your good in mind?

John 15:10-11. This past spring we did an entire series on learning about spiritual disciplines that help us to better abide in Jesus.

- Have you been continuing any of the practices we learned in Personal Liturgy? Which ones could you start implementing again this week?

- What are the things that most help to stir your affections for Jesus?

*Every Group
Around the Pool*

- How does a reliance on the True Vine empower us to live as missionaries this week?

Pray that God would shape our LifeGroup to love and trust Jesus as the True Vine- the only source of life and joy and spiritual growth.

Pray that we would continue growing in recognizing when we are leaning on other sources of life outside of Jesus and repent of them.

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 try to find life and joy outside of the True Vine?
- 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.