



1. Catch Up On Life:

This is when we update each other on the things that Jesus has been up to in our lives since we last saw each other. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are 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, equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, show us our sin, and 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)

i. Scripture Study

In the sermon, we talked about the biblical theme of oppression. Take a few minutes as a LifeGroup right now looking over the passages on oppression at end of this LifeGroup Guide. Spend some time silently reflecting and journaling the following questions as a LifeGroup - What stands out from the passages? What do these passages reveal to us about God? What do these passages reveal to us about people? Share with one another what you thought, reflected, and wrote about.

1. Have questions about the sermon? Ask us [here](https://bit.ly/2Kzyd9B) (bit.ly/2Kzyd9B) (form.jotform.com/91616134918157)

2. Looking to grow as a LifeGroup? MidtownLifeGroups.com
3. Check out our Bible reading and Prayer Plan based on this series [here](https://midtowncolumbia.com/reading-plan) (midtowncolumbia.com/reading-plan)

ii. Sermon Discussion

- What stood out overall from the sermon?
- Take some time sharing stories from Serve the City Weekend- what stood out to you?
- Serve the City Weekend and our STC partnerships are practical ways we push back against injustice in our city. After serving this weekend, hearing the sermon, and reading the verses on oppression - what are some practical ways you can begin or continue to fight against oppression and serve those who are vulnerable?

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)

- Last week, we began working through resources on FollowingJesusTogether.com. How's that been going? What has God been teaching you? What obstacles have you encountered? How can LifeGroup help?
- What are you struggling to trust Jesus with this week? How can you give Him control of it? (As people confess sin, make sure to remind one another of the good news Jesus offers. If need be, use the worksheet "Go-to Verses for Gospel Fluency" at FollowingJesusTogether.com/confession)

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 to God in prayer and pray for each other. **Pray** for the Spirit to work in you as you take steps of repentance.

Leviticus 6:1-7

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "If anyone sins and commits a breach of faith against the Lord by deceiving his neighbor in a matter of deposit or security, or through robbery, or if he has oppressed his neighbor or has found something lost and lied about it, swearing falsely—in any of all the things that people do and sin thereby— if he has sinned and has realized his guilt and will restore what he took by robbery or what he got by oppression or the deposit that was committed to him or the lost thing that he found or anything about which he has sworn falsely, he shall restore it in full and shall add a fifth to it, and give it to him to whom it belongs on the day he realizes his guilt. And he shall bring to the priest as his compensation to the Lord a ram without blemish out of the flock, or its equivalent, for a guilt offering. And the priest shall make atonement for him before the Lord, and he shall be forgiven for any of the things that one may do and thereby become guilty."

Psalm 9:9

The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

Isaiah 10:1-3

Woe to those who decree iniquitous decrees, and the writers who keep writing oppression, to turn aside the needy from justice and to rob the poor of my people of their right, that widows may be their spoil, and that they may make the fatherless their prey! What will you do on the day of punishment, in the ruin that will come from afar? To whom will you flee for help, and where will you leave your wealth?

To read more Bible verses go to "Resources" at the bottom of this week's sermon page.

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