



FOLLOW
LIFE-GIVING HABITS

SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

- SURRENDER
- BELONG
- DEVOTE
- GUIDE
- CULTIVATE
- TURN

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



WEEK ONE

_ I SURRENDER TO JESUS AS LORD

This week we are focussing on the Lordship of Jesus in our lives. What we are discovering is that Jesus is Lord of all. He says over all things "IT IS MINE". It may sound daunting; it sounds like someone having "control" over my life and that I run the risk of "losing my freedom".

But we discover that being under the Lordship of Jesus is actually the only way to be free. My freedom, on my own terms, is actually the riskiest of all.

Read: Romans 7:21-23 (The Message)

Question 1:

Would you say that you find the thought of "handing over" control of your life to Jesus easy or difficult? Explain your answer.

Read: Acts 2:37-38 (Christian Standard Bible)

Question 2:

Growing up, what was your understanding of baptism of the believer? In light of the Scripture above, do you think your view has been correct/incorrect?

Read: Romans 6:1-11 (Christian Standard Bible)

Question 3:

What stood out as you read the Scripture above? How does this relate to the baptism of the believer?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



WEEK TWO

_ I BELONG TO MY CHURCH FAMILY

A person who surrenders his or her life to Jesus Christ will never be the same again. Everything finds new meaning and purpose and it is as if you become alive for the very first time. But it was never God's intention for this new reality to be kept a secret or to be a private matter.

Being a Christian whose whole life has been changed implies that you share your new life with other believers. This gathering is what being church is all about.

Read: Acts 2:42-47 (Christian Standard Bible)

Question 1:

What is the picture you see of church in Acts 2?

Read: Ephesians 2:19-22 (Christian Standard Bible)

Question 2:

What would you consider the most important realities of church as seen in this Scripture? Discuss this.

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (Christian Standard Bible)

Question 3:

The early church functioned like a healthy body – each one played his/her role in strengthening and building up the church (body). What part has God giving you to fulfil in your spiritual family?


SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



WEEK THREE

_ I DEVOTE MYSELF TO THE WORD & PRAYER

We know because of the finished work of Jesus on the cross that we have God's presence with us always. Through the Holy Spirit God has made His home in us and is with us always. But there is something to scheduling time to read our Bibles, to study Jesus, and then to talk to Him in a dedicated time of prayer. This strengthens our relationship with Him. That helps us to live in the reality of His presence each day. It is just like a husband that schedules a date night with his wife to strengthen their relationship.



A parent who carves out time in a busy calendar to get to know their children better. It is not to establish the relationship, but rather to grow and enjoy an existing relationship.

Read: Mark 1:35 (New Living Translation)

Question 1:

How do you approach this relational habit of reading the Bible and Prayer? What works/does not work for you?

Question 2:

Would you say some of the current habits in your life are making you unproductive or lowering your quality of life or effectiveness as a believer?

Read: Hebrews 1:1-3 (Christian Standard Bible)

Question 3:

God is busy with a conversation and its all about his Son. How do you think growing in your daily devotion to the Word and prayer will help you to know God, love people and impact your world?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



WEEK FOUR
_ THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES US

When you think about the Holy Spirit a variety of pictures and thoughts come to mind. These range from a little voice in my head, almost like my conscience, to a mystical power, like the Force mentioned in the Star Wars saga! However, the Bible introduces the Holy Spirit to us as a Person and not as power.

Read: Galatians 5:16 (Christian Standard Bible)

Question 1:

The Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit is a Person, in other words, we are able to have a personal and intimate daily relationship with Him by walking with Him. How do you think one cultivates and nurtures this relationship?

Read: Romans 12:11 (English Standard Version)

Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent [dzeh´-o; to be hot: -boil, -glow, to burn] in spirit, serve the Lord.

Question 2:

We are instructed to be on fire with the Spirit.

["fervent" = to be on fire with the Spirit. God gives you the fire, but you must keep the fire burning - in OT times, the priests needed to do this every day in the temple.]

What gets the fire burning? What quenches the fire?

Read: Ephesians 5:18-21 (English Standard Version)

Question 3:

We are instructed to go on being filled with the Spirit.

Spend time in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit to be the guide of your new life, showing you how to follow Jesus in every area of your life.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



WEEK FIVE

_ I CULTIVATE A LIFE OF GENEROSITY

Generosity is not just an interesting topic in the Bible. It is a wonderful study about the character of our God. Jesus reveals the heart of our Generous God and it challenges our own hearts to the core.

Read: Psalm 24:1-2 (Christian Standard Bible)

Question 1:

What is the one thing that we should change to display that our possessions belong to the Lord?

Read: Matt 6:19-24 (Christian Standard Bible)

Question 2:

Let us discuss in our group how we can use money to worship God and use it as a tool to achieve God honouring outcomes. A follower of Jesus declares that God is my Master and money will become an instrument of worship as I pursue His purposes for my life and for His Kingdom!

Read: Ephesians 1:3 (Christian Standard Bible)

Read: John 3:16 (Christian Standard Bible)

Question 3:

We can easily fall into the trap of believing that we have to give – as if someone is forcing us.

Looking at the two Scriptures above, what should be our motivation to give and to be generous?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



WEEK SIX
_ I TURN TO NEW LIFE

If you attain something valuable, then your life is full of it for a while. You talk about it, you show it off and you will guide conversations in that direction, because it adds value to your life it becomes the centre.

Read: Colossians 3:1-10 (Christian Standard Bible)

Question 1:

When we are born again, we turn away from our old, sinful life. But we also turn toward God, finding our identity and purpose in Him through the accomplished work of His Son Jesus Christ.

Looking at the scripture above, how are we to go about living this new life?

Read: John 14:66 (Christian Standard Bible)

Question 2:

In Jesus, we discover the true meaning of life. What are the dangers when we try to find ultimate fulfilment in things and people rather than Christ?

Read: Ephesians 1:7-8 (Christian Standard Bible)

Question 3:

What do you see regarding God's forgiveness in these verses?