

For the week of May 7-13, 2017

Based on the Church Assembly Weekend: May 6-7

The State of the Mission

Best Way to Prepare for Your Group? Listen to the teaching and read the appropriate scripture. Please give emphasis to the latter. These notes are prepared on Fridays. Sometimes, Pastor Tucker modifies his sermon right before service. So, allow for flexibility. Remember, your time together isn't meant to be a re-teaching of the most recent lesson. Instead, the discussion points and questions are designed to encourage group members to share insight and application of what they've learned from God's Word—and thereby grow closer to the Lord and each other.

[Format for the Evening]

WELCOME:

Get to know each other. Re-introduce yourselves if need be and welcome any newcomers. Invite those new to the group to share a little about their lives and Christian experience. Spend some time talking about real-life issues that may have come up during prayer or fellowship time the previous week. These Community Groups are more than Bible studies. They are designed to help believers form deep and lasting relationships.

KEY PASSAGE: *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. —1 John 1:7*

REVIEW: This week we will discuss our church's mission statement: To love God, live like Jesus and let the Spirit lead us. We'll talk about the ways we, as individuals, can help improve the way we fulfill that mission in our church, in our community, and throughout the world.

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING: Loving God

Read 1 John 4:19. We are all aware of God's deep love for us. We are also aware of the deep debt we owe Jesus because He conquered death, and put an end to the wrath that God had for man because of our sin. Our relationship with Jesus forms the basis for most of the things we do as part of a church family. We don't go to church just to socialize or make ourselves feel like we've accomplished something. Our participation in church is also meant to be a reflection of our great love for God.

TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING: How does your life reflect your love for God?

1. What are you doing to express your love of God to your church?
2. What are you doing as individuals or as a group to show your love for God as you function in this community?
3. What are you doing as individuals or as a group to show your love for God as you participate in the Great Commission?

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING: Living Like Jesus

Read 2 Corinthians 6:18 and Ephesians 2:10. The Bible tells us that we can be transformed to reflect the glory of Christ. We can all live like Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. It also says that God has specific things that He has chosen us to accomplish. We can show the world Jesus by the way we live.

TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING: What does it mean to live like Jesus?

1. Is it possible to live like Jesus in our own power and might?
2. Are we called to live like Jesus everywhere we go?
3. How do we learn to live like Jesus?
4. What are some practical ways you can live like Jesus in your home, workplace, school, or neighborhood?

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING: Let the Spirit Lead

Read Romans 8:26-27 and John 6:63. Our ability to rely on the Holy Spirit correlates to our levels of Christian maturity. The more we follow the Spirit the more we grow, and the more we grow the more we are enabled to follow Him. It's a smart thing to do. It is not always easy. Our human tendencies are grounded in selfishness—the antithesis of a Spirit-led life.

TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

1. Do you have any strategies for recognizing the leading of the Holy Spirit?
2. How does the Holy Spirit influence your daily life?
3. How can the Holy Spirit affect the way you interact with your church family, your community, and your mission field?
4. How do you access more of the Holy Spirit's power in your daily life?

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING: Making Improvements in Transparency, Accountability, and Responsibility.

Being part of a church is more than attending worship services on weekends. As you already know, because you're in this study, fellowship is important, and so is prayer. We are all in this together and it's our hope that we will become more united as a church family as we participate more in one another's lives. To advance our progress toward that goal the leadership is striving for more transparency, accountability, and responsibility. Those attributes should all be applied to our personal interactions with each other.

TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

1. Why is it important to be able to be transparent with other Christians? Is there anyone in your church family you trust completely to tell you the truth about your life?
2. Why is it important to hold each other accountable to live in ways that glorify our God?
3. Do any of you have accountability partners? Would you welcome one? Why or why not?
4. Why is open communication important to a family? How well do you communicate with members of your church family? How can that improve?

TAKE TIME TO PRAY:

Please pray that God would show each of us as individuals how to fulfill the mission of this church. Pray for opportunities to love God, live like Jesus and let the Spirit lead. Pray for the leadership of Calvary Boise. Ask God to help them as they seek His help to maintain greater transparency, achieve more accountability and fine-tune their responsibilities to communicate effectively with the church body

TRANSITION TO REAL LIFE:

Before you head home take some time to talk about the week ahead, make note of any needs and prayer requests, and enjoy each other's company. That's what family does.

Note: *Pastor Tucker welcomes your feedback. Please email him at tucker@ccboise.org with your insight.*

WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication. –Acts 1: 14

Christians must be “of one accord” if they are to prevail with God. Our prayers are much like music. Discord is destructive, destroying each other by their crashing and colliding; only the harmonies sustain and bear each other upward and onward. Guided by their own will alone, a score of Christians might all be praying at cross-purposes, one desiring this thing, and one the opposite, and each thereby nullifying the petition of the other. How shall they come to agreement? Should we pursue worldly methods and take a vote? Should the majority rule? No! The unity of the Spirit is the only unity that can put us in accord with heaven. Human agreements, however unanimous, are good for nothing in prayer, unless they have taken their key from God. –A.J. Gordon

About the Author: Adoniram Judson Gordon was an American pastor and close friend of D.L. Moody, who wrote extensively on the work of the Holy Spirit and was a staunch defender of divine healings. He spent much of his career in Boston and lived from 1836 until 1895.

Our Community Group:

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Prayer Requests for Our International Missions

- Please remember to pray for the missions in India and other parts of the world that your group has been paired with this year. Ask God to give the leaders wisdom and to meet all their needs according to His perfect will. Please pray for the spiritual growth of all the believers who have openly acknowledged their faith; and for all our children served by the after-school tutoring program, Doorstep School to experience the love of Christ in their lives.
- Please pray for the local Send Hope office. Ask that their hard work on the website and database will soon be done and will add extra measures of efficiency. Please pray too as they plan two mission trips for the coming year—a building project mission to Tepic, Mexico and a medical mission to India.
- Please continue to pray for the Lajlars in Slovenia as they struggle with adjusting to a new, enlarged family in an old, tiny home. Pray for God’s peace to prevail in the hearts of all involved. Pray especially that the older children will have an abundance of God-given compassion for the new additions to the family. Pray that the five-year-old boy will learn Slovenian quickly and that his frustrations with communication will be resolved. Pray for the biological parents to be saved and set free from the destructive behaviors that gave rise to this entire situation.

Prayer Requests for our Local Ministry

- Pray that more parents of special needs children will learn about our Sunday service for them. Pray that this service will be a blessing to the special needs community.
- Pray that more volunteers will come forward to help with weekend services. We still have 30 slots to fill to make things run smoothly. Pray that God will call the right, friendly, welcoming individuals and that they will eagerly answer that call.