

LIFE GROUP LEADER'S GUIDE

For the week of March 3, 2024

LEADER NOTES

MEETING NOTES

⇒ LEADER TIP

Your goal each night is to lead your group in such a way that you hear from everyone and use the Bible as your guide. Know that if you do this each week the people in your group will grow!

Remember you don't need to cover all questions. Great conversation is far more important than covering all the questions.

⇒ PRAYER NOTE

Check out the **Tips on Group Prayer at the end of this Leader's Guide. And NEVER make someone pray. Group prayer is similar to public speaking, which is the #1 fear people have.** More than once we've had people tell us they quit Life Groups because a well-intentioned person required everyone to pray.

⇒ ATTENDANCE

Submit your group's attendance online through the [Planning Center Groups](#). If you are still having trouble with taking attendance online, please read this article: <https://pcogroups.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360016180273-take-attendance>.

Find all of our leader resources online: <https://www.springfieldfaithcenter.org/leader-resources>

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

⇒ ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, March 6th at 6:30 p.m. Join us as we review the previous year's financial status, talk about our main accomplishments and ratify our new council members. Afterwards, join us in the family room for some pie!

⇒ DISCOVER SFC

Sunday, March 10th at 12:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. Are you new to SFC? Or are you simply interested in getting to know us better? Then come join our Discover SFC class to delve into the heart of our church! We'll even provide lunch and childcare for your convenience. Register online or in the Connect Hub.

⇒ GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Friday, March 29th at 6:30 p.m. Please join us for our Good Friday service as we reflect upon the sacrificial death of Jesus, our Crucified King. The night will include short sermons, acoustic music, and a time of reflective communion. Childcare will be available for infant to 5 years old

⇒ EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday, March 31st at 9:30 a.m. + 11:00 a.m. Join us as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus! Easter is a great time for people to explore faith, encounter God, and hear an encouraging message about Jesus. Invite your friends and family to one of our 2 Easter services. We can't wait to see you there!

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 14th | Newcomer's Gathering

DISCUSSION REMINDER: Remember, every night you want to hear from everyone in your group. Think through how you're going to ask questions so this happens. Ask various individuals what they think, go around the circle, set time limits on answers so you have time to hear from everyone.

LIFE GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

For the week of March 3, 2024

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

BE FRIENDLY

#1 What is the tallest building you've been to the top of? Or, what is the tallest building you've ever seen? How tall was it; where was it located? What do you think the builders were trying to say in building it that tall?

Low Risk. Good to have everyone answer this one.

Leader Tip: Let the introverts and those who are more cautious in sharing have fun with this one.

Additional Questions: What is your experience with other languages? Do you speak a second (or more) language fluently? Have you traveled to a place where you didn't speak the native language? If yes, describe how that experience made you feel.

BE OPEN

#2 This weekend's story embodied an important biblical principle: *God comes down in both judgment and mercy* (see Genesis 11:5). *Judgment*—God confused their language and scattered them over the earth. *Mercy*—God called Abram and Sarai and blessed all nations through them (12:1-3). How do you see this same principle at work in the Bible passage below?

Medium Risk. Some may not be comfortable to share in a larger setting.

Leader Tip: Answers will vary. Look at the highlighted verses.

***Judgment** – punish Egypt for the misery they have caused God's people*

***Mercy** – rescue people and bring them into the Promised Land*

Exodus 3:1-10, NIV

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

⁴ When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." ⁵ "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the

hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

How does this principle become a source of hope the Hebrew slaves in Egypt?

Medium Risk. *Some may not be comfortable to share in a larger setting.*

Leader Tip: *Answers will vary. The Hebrews were slaves in Egypt, and the Lord declared that in his mercy he has come down to judge Egypt for what they had done to his people.*

What does this Biblical principle reveal about the character of God?

Medium Risk. *Some may not be comfortable to share in a larger setting.*

Leader Tip: *Answers will vary. The passage above mentions some important traits of his character: he turns his attention toward his people (he sees their misery), he has heard their cries (he hears), and he is concerned about their suffering (it troubles him). Also, he has the power to rescue them. The principle shows that God is very much concerned with creation, and especially human beings, and that he has the power to do something about their trouble, he can and wants to make things right.*

In what ways does Jesus exhibit this same principle?

Medium Risk. *Some may not be comfortable to share in a larger setting.*

Leader Tip: *Answers will vary. One of the main ideas of the Bible is that Jesus is “the Lord come down” to be with his people. Jesus comes down to judge the world and to bring mercy and grace. He is “the Lord come down.” This principle is most evident in the passages below. Take some time to read these passages and point your group to the reality that in Jesus, the Lord is present with his people to set the world back in its proper order (through judgment) and to save from sin those who have put their faith and trust in him (by his mercy and grace).*

John 1:1-14, NIV

¹ The In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Revelation 21:1-5, NIV

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his

people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Revelation 22:1-5, NIV

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

#3 At one level, the Tower of Babel is a story about human arrogance and the propensity of human beings to take life into our own hands. The Bible has a lot to say against pride, arrogance, and the desire to make names for ourselves. As you read the passages below, make note of what stands out to you.

Proverbs 18:10-12, ESV

¹⁰ The Lord’s name is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and find refuge. ¹¹ The riches of the wealthy are a strong city and like a high wall in their imagination. ¹² Pride comes before a disaster, but humility comes before respect.

Luke 14:11, NIV

For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

1 John 2:15-17, NIV

¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

1 Peter 5:5-6, NIV

⁵ ...you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁶ So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.

Other Scriptures about Arrogance

Proverbs 8:13, NIV

To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech (says the Lord).

Proverbs 11:2, NIV

When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom;

Proverbs 16:5,18, NIV

⁵ The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.

¹⁸ Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

According to the passages above, what are some of the dangers associated with arrogance and self-exaltation?

Medium Risk. *Some may not be comfortable to share in a larger setting.*

Leader Tip: *Answers will vary. Look at the highlighted sections above for insight. The key is to realize that pride leads to destruction and ruin, and that the Lord is opposed to the proud and arrogant. There is no “good end” in the way of arrogance.*

Humility is the antidote to pride. what are the benefits of walking in humility?

Medium Risk. *Some may not be comfortable to share in a larger setting.*

Leader Tip: *Answers will vary. These passages list several benefits: respect, humble people will be exalted and lifted up in honor, those who humbly do the will of God will live forever, and God gives grace and wisdom to the humble. See the underlined sections above.*

#4 This week Pastor Daniel talked about how human unity is not automatically healthy. The unhealth in the story is visible when the people come together to build themselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that they can “make a name for themselves” (Genesis 11:4). The purpose of their unity was to build themselves up, and in a way, to declare their independence apart from God. Not all unity is unhealthy, and the Bible talks about the healthy kind.

Philippians 2:1-4, NIV

¹Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others

1 Peter 3:8-9, ESV

⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

Other Scriptures about Unity

John 17:20-23, NIV

²⁰ “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

What are some major differences between the unity we see in Genesis 11 and the unity described in the passages above?

Medium Risk. *Some may not be comfortable to share in a larger setting.*

Leader Tip: *Answers will vary. Unhealthy unity places humans and their ambitions, desires, and will at the center. Healthy unity centers on Christ and the love shared through him.*

BE VULNERABLE

#5 Pride is something that can creep into our lives in subtle ways. Is there an area of your life where pride has a stronghold? How could your Life Group be praying for you and helping you with this area of your life, if they only knew about it?

High Risk. *A few people may want to answer this question.*

Leader Tip: *Answers will vary. This question holds the potential to be very vulnerable as it could expose sensitive areas in people's lives. As a leader, make sure you don't ask those who aren't ready to be this vulnerable. You may want to lead into with question with the option for people to be vague in their answers if necessary.*

#6 Looking back at this week's teaching, what is most important for you to remember and why?

High Risk. *A few people may want to answer this question.*

Leader Tip: *Answers will vary. This question is a great way to ask people to apply the passage directly to themselves. Also, it allows the group to hear how the Holy Spirit is speaking to each person individually.*

Close in prayer:

TOPICAL PRAYER: *Prayer is an amazing avenue God has given us to communicate with him and he with us. But we also come to it with a lot of different thoughts and feelings.*

TIPS ON GROUP PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of being in Life Group. Group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one is required to pray out loud.

Eat dessert: *Mingle with everyone.*

THE AWFUL POWER OF UNITY

Genesis 11

The Story:

- ❶ Unity isn't automatically **healthy**
- ❷ God is **invested** in the health of his world
- ❸ God comes down in both **judgment** and **mercy**

Final Thoughts:

- ✓ God is always working to fulfill his **promises**.