

LIFE GROUP LEADER'S GUIDE

For the week of March 17, 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

⇒ 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 17, 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 Would you rather? (just for fun): Would you rather have every traffic light turn green or always have the best parking spot?

Low Risk. Good to have everyone answer this one.

Leader Tip: This one is for pure fun. Laughter opens people up. Also, seeing people debate over issues like these is hilarious.

#2 Do you have a celebrity look-a-like? Or, has anyone ever told you that you look like someone famous? If yes, who? Do you agree with that person? If no, who do you think could your celebrity look-a-like?

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. Also, make sure that no one in the group is rude or condescending with their answers.

BE OPEN

#3 This weekend we saw that Jesus is the mediator between God and his people. This means that Jesus is actively going between God and people as a priest and intercessor. Below are a few passages that describe Jesus' role as mediator. Note what stands out to you.

Hebrews 4:14-16, NIV

¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven,^[1] Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

1 John 2:1-2, NIV

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Hebrews 9:11-15, NIV

¹¹ But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. ¹² He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. ¹³ The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. ¹⁴ How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

¹⁵ For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

What insights into Jesus' role as priest or mediator can you draw from these passages?

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

Leader Tip: Answers will vary. Here are some of the insights I drew out.

Jesus is our high priest who knows how to empathize with our weaknesses.

Jesus was tempted and didn't sin.

Jesus is our advocate with the Father. He stands beside us and contends for us.

Jesus is the atoning sacrifice to make us one with God.

Jesus went in to the Most Holy Place by his own blood and obtained eternal redemption for those who respond in faith.

Jesus cleanses us and sanctifies us.

Jesus sets us free from sin.

What are some of the blessings that we receive as a direct result of Jesus being the mediator between God and his people?

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

Leader Tip: Answers will vary. Below is a truncated list of what we read in the passages above. Can you find any more?

We receive mercy.

We find grace.

We receive an advocate.

We receive cleansed consciences.

We get to serve God.

We are set free from sins.

We received the promised eternal inheritance.

#4 This weekend we learned that by God's grace, those who put their faith in Jesus are called *blameless* and *righteous* in the eyes of God. How do the verses below help explain this reality?

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

Leader Tip: Answers will vary. See the highlights in the passages below. Everyone of the passages says that God acted graciously to make us blameless. There is nothing in here about us deserving of what God has done for us.

Ephesians 1:3-6, NIV

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

1 Corinthians 1:5-8, NIV

⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— ⁶ God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Colossians 1:23-25, NIV

²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— ²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

How would you paraphrase these verses in your own words?

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

Leader Tip: Answers will vary. Paraphrasing Scripture is a great way for people to interpret what the text is saying. We all can paraphrase, and therefore, we all can interpret the Bible. Encourage your group to give this one their best.

#5 This weekend we saw that God's grace has set us free from slavery to sin and has made it possible to choose (think, "be shackled to") Jesus. As you read a section from Romans 6, make note of the contrast between slavery/freedom and sin/righteousness. (tip... If you have time, read the entire chapter of Romans 6).

Romans 6:15-18, NIV

¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

What is the end-game of sin? What is the end-game of obedience?

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

Leader Tip: Answers will vary.

Slavery to Sin leads to death.

Obedience leads to **righteousness**, in right standing with the Lord, which leads to **eternal life**. God set us free from the slavery that leads to death so that we can choose to be slaves to righteousness, which leads to eternal life.

What does this passage reveal about the character of God?

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

Leader Tip: *Answers will vary.*

BE VULNERABLE

#6 This weekend Courtney mentioned that because of God's grace, we have *complete access* to God. How might this truth effect your prayer life? What does it say about the heart of God and his desire for relationship with people?

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

Leader Tip: *Answers will vary. Complete access to God was a very foreign concept to the people of Israel, as the priest was the only who could enter the Most Holy Place to offer sacrifices and atone for the sins of the people. It may be something we take for granted, but I hope we can at least pause, and think about how the God of the universe, the Creator of all things, the Holy and Almighty God has given us complete access to himself through the death of Jesus and the life of the Holy Spirit.*

God loves us so much and has, by his grace, acted to remove the barrier caused by sin.

#7 If Courtney had to give an abbreviated version of this week's sermon, what two points or ideas would you tell her to include no matter what?

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

Leader Tip: *Answers will vary. This question primes the pump for application. It helps people in the group discern what is most important for themselves.*

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

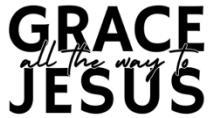
Prayer is an important part of being in Life Group. Group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.

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.*



GRACE FOUND MOSES

By God's grace, Moses...

- the fugitive and foreigner was found by God to rescue his people from captivity.
- the lawbreaker and murderer was chosen by God to deliver the Law to the people.
- the reluctant and tongue-tied leader was made to be an intercessor for the people.

Through God's grace, Jesus...

- is the ransom to rescue God's people once and for all from sin.
- is the fulfillment of the Law.
- is the mediator between God and his people.

By God's grace, we...

- live in freedom from slavery to sin.
- are called blameless and righteous in the eyes of God.

have complete access to God - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.