

LIFE GROUPS

LEADER PAGE | Ascent | WEEK 13 of 15 | Sermon date: October 30, 2022

Before Group *(do the heart work)*

In Acts 20:35, the Apostle Paul is remembering the words of Jesus saying, “It is more blessed to give than to receive”. Did you catch that? There is *more* blessing in the giving part, not the receiving part. In our world today, we tend to believe that the recipient is the most blessed and we desire to be on the receiving end more often than we’d like to admit. However, it’s the giving end that holds *more* blessing. Spend some time considering how you could be more giving of your time, effort and energy towards the very things, people, and places that God is calling you to.

During Group *(facilitate effectively)*

In our **HEAD** question this week, we pivot out of the Psalm (132) and into 1 Peter 2:4-5 to further explore the idea of being a “living stone”. If anyone misses the message, this will be hard to understand so be sure to catch the message replay online if necessary. We also dive into what it means to be a “living stone” as a part of the “spiritual house” being built up. Then our **HEART** question invites us to consider how we are showing up as “living stones”. Are we really pursuing our place and calling, to be a “living stone” of the “spiritual house”? How? What does that look like? Are we contributing or simply just consuming? We end with our **HANDS** question, which is simply just a direct challenge to get off the sidelines and into the game! As a leader it will be challenging for you, just as much as for your group members, if you are not serving in some area of church. We must model it well if we’re to call others up into a place of becoming more others focused.

After Group *(leading intentionally)*

Following group this week, be sure to encourage your people that our hope is to continuously become more like Jesus. Affirm in them where you see Jesus in their lives specifically. Finally, if anyone answers the **HANDS** question by saying they will find a place to start serving, ask about it next week and hold one another accountable to following through. Then ask about it again in a few weeks after they’ve been serving and allow them to share with the group how it is changing them, challenging them, and growing them for God’s glory.

Announcements *(share with your group)*

Discipleship is a big deal around here and we have a heavy emphasis on the relational side of that. In addition, another effective piece of discipleship is financial. Yes! God owns it all, and we only have because of what He provides. That said, we get to steward the blessing He gives us. However, many of us just never received any coaching around stewarding our funds in a way that honors God. With that in mind, **Southeast is offering you a free license to Financial Peace University!** To receive simply click [here](#) and then scroll down to the SIGN-UP button and follow the prompts. Make sure to let your entire group know so that we all have access to the tools that help us honor the Lord in our finances!

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FACILITATOR PAGE | *(Reproducible Process/Overall Alignment)*

Welcome | Opening Prayer | Highs & Lows *(5 mins.)*

Weekly Vision Checklist *(Intentional Leader - 5 mins.)*

- *Announcements (see bottom of Leader Page)*
- *Our Why (Jesus commands us to make disciples. Mt. 28:18-19)*
- *Our Goal (spiritual growth in becoming disciple makers)*
- *Our How (is Life Groups, cast a vision around importance of branching)*
- *Guidelines (setting the rails for healthy discussion)*
 - *Confidentiality (what's said here stays here)*
 - *Avoid Crosstalk (no side conversations while others are sharing)*
 - *Avoid Fixing & Rescuing (fight the urge to jump in and save)*
 - *Use I Statements (avoid using general terms, speak personally)*
 - *Contribute Over Consume (everyone is encouraged to participate)*
 - *Be Mindful of Self (allow all to share and use humor responsibly)*

Hook Question *(a related thought-provoking question- 5 mins.)*

What motivates you the most to be generous with your time, energy, and effort?

Recap the Message *(frame the discussion - 5 mins.)*

Read Psalm 132 out loud and then get 1 or 2 takeaways from the message.

Implications *(discussion questions based off the underlined implications - 5 mins.)*

1. Even when we mess it all up, God is still faithful.
2. Real peace is found when we live into God's design for our lives.
3. You are not God's house by yourself, but you are an important part of it.
4. What stone are you?

Discussion Questions *(going beyond the surface- 55 mins.)*

- **HEAD** - Read 1 Peter 2:4-5. What does it mean to be a "living stone"? How might that be connected to "*being built up as a spiritual house*"?
- **HEART** - If we're to be "*living stones*" of the "*spiritual house*", how are you a "stone" of the house right now? How are you showing up in that space, and if not, what's really holding you back?
(Follow-Up Questions: What's behind your hesitation to get connected and serve? What good can come if you do? Where is this on your list of priorities?)
- **HANDS** - One indicator of spiritual maturity is being others-focused. For those not serving in some capacity already, the challenge is to come by the Connections Studio next Sunday and get connected by beginning to serve.

Prayer Prompts *(Scripture-fed, Spirit-led, Worship-based prayer prompts - 10 mins.)*

Read 1 Peter 2:4-5 before praying these prompts.

Lord I will be a "living stone" for you because you are _____.

You alone are Holy, Holy, Holy, and my response to that is to _____.

When I struggle to be a "living stone" hear my cry for help when _____.

You have a calling on my life that I can no longer ignore so I will _____.