

LIFE GROUPS

LEADER PAGE | Ascent | WEEK 14 of 15 | Sermon date: November 6th, 2022

Before Group *(do the heart work)*

This week we encourage you to seek out what God's word has to say regarding unity. Typically, in this section of the Leader page we insert a verse for you, but we want to challenge you to find some scriptures on your own around the idea of unity. Wherever the Lord may lead you, soak it up and be prepared to share (in group) anything He may have placed on your heart surrounding this topic.

During Group *(facilitate effectively)*

Our **HEAD** question begins by reminding us that Psalm 133 speaks to unity and then we're asked to read John 17:17-23. Our aim here in the HEAD questions is to discover what actual biblical unity is and to reveal Jesus' heart posture towards it. Our **HEART** is to get the group sharing ways that you've displayed a similar sense of unity within the group this year. Also, in the Follow Up Questions to consider what might be holding this group back from a similar, biblical, unity. How might we connect even deeper, what and why are we holding back? Finally, our **HANDS** question, ends with asking for suggestions of how to stay unified, even throughout to holiday break.

After Group *(leading intentionally)*

Recall the suggestions you heard from your group regarding the HANDS question where they offered ways to stay connected over the holiday break. Give serious consideration to everyone's thoughts and ideas. Even through the holiday break is intentionally designed for rest, think of a couple of creative ways to stay engaged during this time such as a "potluck Groups-giving" to celebrate Thanksgiving or an ugly sweater Christmas gathering. However, you chose, remain intentional and stay relational.

Announcements *(share with your group)*

In 2023 the Women's Ministry will be focusing on spiritual disciplines so that we can experience, and be changed by, the presence of God. If you want to learn how to practice spiritual disciplines (Bible intake, praying relationally, practicing gratitude that cultivates joy in your life) then plan on joining the women of Southeast in Jan 2023! We will meet once a month and focus on a cultivating our spiritual disciplines. More info to come, check out the [Women's page](#) as we get closer to the new year!

Did You Know? *(reinforcing culture)*

Next week is the last week we provide curriculum for Life Groups as we close out the 2022 season and move into our holiday break (aka Season of Rest), which is a 9 week, intentional pause allowing you and your group to rest well over the holidays. We encourage you to stay connected during this time however you decide. Also, make it clear to your group that the [2023 season kicks off on Jan 22](#), and group will resume meeting regularly at that time! Talk to your Life Group pastor for more details!

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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 was a family activity/tradition that you had to do participate in growing up?

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

Read Psalm 133 out loud and then get 1 or 2 takeaways from the message.

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

1. The first and primary way that we show the world what God is like is to work hard to love each other well.
2. Unity shows the world that the Christian life is better.
3. When we live in unity, those we influence are better off.
4. If we want God's promised blessing in our lives, we must be able to get along with each other.

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

- **HEAD** – Ps. 133 begins by highlighting unity. Now read Jn. 17:17-23 out loud. How does this passage speak to unity? Why is it important to God and what might this tell us regarding Jesus' heart for unity?
- **HEART** – How have we specifically displayed this type of unity in our Life Group this season? How has this helped those we influence to be better off? (Follow-Up Questions: (Are there any barriers we need to overcome as a group to further experience this type of unity? What are they to you?))
- **HANDS** – What are some ways we can really come together over the holiday break to stay unified?

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

Read Ps. 133 then pray through these prompts.

God because you desire unity for us I will _____.

My heart is conflicted as I find it hard at times to be united with _____.
The next time I find myself in contrast to being united I will immediately _____.
Great is your faithfulness, so when you show up I will be ready to _____.