

# LIFE GROUPS

**LEADER PAGE | Ascent | WEEK 5 of 15 | Sermon date:** September 4, 2022

## **Before Group** *(do the heart work)*

In John 16:7 Jesus tells his disciples that he must go and says that it's to their advantage if He does go because if he stays, the Helper won't come. That Helper is the Holy Spirit. Now 2 Corinthians 3:17 tells us, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." If you're a believer and have accepted Christ, you have the Holy Spirit, which means by proximity you also have that freedom. This freedom allows us to have full confidence knowing that He is the deliverer. There are so places God's word talks about deliverance and it's always tied to freedom. Spend time praising God for His heart that makes this possible for us.

## **During Group** *(facilitate effectively)*

We dive into the idea of deliverance this week. We live in a world of instant gratification where we can have anything delivered "to" us overnight, yet there is only one who can truly deliver us from everything we face. Question one is simple to get us talking about what we see in the text, on a head level. How can does our mind comprehend what we see here. Question two should have us surveying the landscape of our lives to determine areas where we seeking deliverance and more introspectively, how are we fighting to deliver ourselves when we're not the deliverer? As leaders we must create a space where people feel safe to wrestle through how we might be trying to do "God's part" in our lives. Frame your follow up questions in manner that challenges others to think deeper and at the same time is inviting them into that space. Our last question is how can we learn to give up our desire to be the deliverer of our own problems and submit those to Jesus daily?

## **After Group** *(leading intentionally)*

Following group discussion this week, who has shared areas of anxiousness and troubled circumstances? Seek these members out for further care and support. How can you help uncover the root of their struggle and the steps to trust God as their deliverer? Psalm 18:2 says, "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." Our own "self" often gets in the way of what God's is wanting to do. Pray for each person that they will continue to rely on the Holy Spirit to be their helper.

## **Church Announcements** *(share with your group)*

Covered (a first-tier ministry partner) is holding their annual benefit called "Purses with a Purpose"! For more info on this event, click [here](#) or visit [coveredcolorado.org](http://coveredcolorado.org).

## **Did You Know?** *(Reenforcing our culture)*

We have 5 non-negotiable components of every Life Group. 1) Relational Environment, 2) Biblical Foundation, 3) Intentional Leader, 4) Reproducible Process, 5) Overall church alignment. Ask your LG Pastor for more details on each one!

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

### **Welcome | Opening Prayer | God Moments (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 thought-provoking question- 5 mins.)*

What's the strangest thing you've ever had delivered to you?

#### **Recap the Message** *(main takeaways from the message - 5 mins.)*

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

1. Only the Lord can deliver us.
2. When we get anxious about the condition of the world, we reveal where we really believe our strength comes from.
3. We worship God and follow God because He is worthy of this; not so that we can gain a certain lifestyle.
4. God is passionate about us becoming everything He created us to be. He loves us too much to let us settle for less.

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

- **HEAD** - Read Psalm 124 aloud. In the text, what do you see God delivering his people from?
- **HEART** - What do you need His deliverance for right now? Is there anything you're trying to deliver yourself from?
- **HANDS** - How can you better walk in His freedom of deliverance this week?

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

Scripture: Psalm 124, read from the God's word before praying these prompts.

Lord because, \_\_\_\_\_ is true of you I can trust that you are always with me.

Knowing you are fighting for me, I can \_\_\_\_\_.

In this season, Father, I need your help to \_\_\_\_\_.

God when you reveal your plans for me, allow me to \_\_\_\_\_.