



LifeGroups at Southeast

Life Group Announcement re: Holiday Break

(Click [here](#) to catch a quick video and read the details below.)

Leaders, rest is biblical. Even God rested (see Gn. 2:2)! Rest is important to God, and it is important to Life Groups as well. Consider this, we ask our leaders to meet **weekly** over the Life Group season (from mid-Jan through mid-Nov.). That's 43 weeks! Seems like a lot, right? Well relationship matters and the only thing that creates and deepens relationship is time and proximity. Those two combined always equal relationships. That's why we stress meeting weekly. However, 43 weeks a year can drain you as a leader which is why we have intentionally built in **an 8-week period of rest over the holidays.** This break runs from Nov. 14th through Jan. 16th. During this holiday break we, as a Life Groups team, will not be providing any resources for Life Groups (such as curriculum, Podcasts, etc.). Again, this is intentional so that all Life Groups can take the time to rest, both for themselves and for their members. This break is not mandatory yet highly encouraged. Keep in mind, if you chose to meet during the break, there will be no curriculum available. We will resume all resources Jan. 16th when all groups are expected to resume meeting weekly while following Life Group curriculum again.

Abiding over the Holiday Break *(grow as a disciple yourself)*

This break is for your members but it's also for you. Resting well is a challenging because society values production. The Lord however, values rest and working from a place of rest, not the other way around. Find ways to rest well over the break. What is life giving to you and how could you be filled up during this time?

Leading through the Holiday Break *(facilitate your group effectively)*

Communicating this well is the key. Language is also important. Therefore, groups are not cancelled or ending, we're taking a strategic break, so that groups are stronger and healthier. It's a sabbatical of sorts for our group leaders and members. It's also one that's also a natural break, over the holidays. Equally important is communicating the hard start date of the next Life Group season, Jan. 16th. Make sure that all your members are clear on the start date. Over communicating this will prove to be helpful for you as a leader or you could potentially struggle with gaining traction at the start of the season.

Shepherding during the Holiday Break *(know, feed, lead, and protect the sheep)*

We've already stated that relationships matter and if we've been meeting weekly, we'll have some strong relationships that we will not just be able to take a break from, rightfully so. That said, we believe that groups still will gather and stay connected over the holiday break. For example, some will have pot-luck dinners, a Thanksgiving meal, an ugly sweater party or a Christmas gathering. Whatever you chose, be intentional about resting well, respecting your own boundaries all while honoring the relationships God has given you.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE REACH OUT TO YOUR LIFE GROUP PASTOR.

REMEMBER: "Every group deserves a great leader."





LEADER PAGE | The Kingdom| WEEK 3 of 4 | Sermon date: October 31, 2021

Discipleship Phrase: We are called to the kingdom.

Big Idea for Series: God's will, God's reign, God's way

Abiding *(grow as a disciple yourself)*

Exodus 20:4 says this, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain." This verse is often mistaken as a directive not to use God's name as a curse word (which we shouldn't) however, it's more than that. If you call yourself a Christ follower, we're showing the world what our King (Jesus) is like in everything we do. We're earthly ambassadors representing a Heavenly kingdom. Have you ever considered what your thoughts, speech and actions are conveying about who you serve? Spend some time wrestling through that before group this week. Be honest about areas you may fall short in and the areas you are doing well in.

Leading *(facilitate your group effectively)*

This week we focus on living authentically as ambassadors of Christ. As you lead discussion help the group uncover what an ambassador does and for what purpose. When members examine their own lives, what do they think others see and experience? Would others know that you represent God's kingdom? Moving further into discussion, Question 3 is asking us to search our hearts to see how our own objectives and opinions compare to God's message. This is a harder question since it causes us to identify areas where we are caught up in our own priorities. As followers of Christ, we are ambassadors called to share and represent God's kingdom first. Question 4 will ask us to examine what steps we can take to continue on a path of sharing the love of God to the world. What growth needs to happen in us to live out the mission well? Reconciliation happens through leaning into relationship with God and relationship with others.

Shepherding *(know, feed, lead, and protect the sheep)*

Spend some time this week processing through what it means to be an ambassador for Christ. Be praying about what attributes you carry and actions you share with others that show His light. How do you represent Jesus in your day-to-day living, both at home and work? Talk with your group about the ways you maybe struggle in living the life of His ambassador daily and share some thoughts on how you might best work towards changing some habits that could be stumbling blocks on that path. If being an ambassador is exemplifying how to reconcile our relationships with others to help bring them into a saving relationship with Jesus, be ready to talk through ideas on how best to execute that vision.

Church Announcements *(be in the know & share with your group)*

The next connections class is November 14th & 21st. Click [here](#) to register!

REMEMBER: "Every group deserves a great leader."



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SERIES| The Kingdom | WEEK 3 of 4 | Sermon date: October 31, 2021

Welcome/Introductions (*creating a relational environment starts here; be friendly & acknowledge everyone*)

Open in Prayer (*kickoff every group gathering with honoring the Lord*)

Ice Breaker, God Moments, or Highs & Lows (*choose one that is best for your group this week*)

Weekly Vision Checklist (*See Flipbook re: announcements, the “why”, goal, outreach, guidelines, & branching*)

Ask a Hook Question (*a thought-provoking question to get the group heading in the right direction*) What’s your favorite brand and why?

Recap the Message (*ask a **couple** people to share what stood out to them in this week’s message*)

Scriptures References (*Read scriptures **directly from the Bible**—it carries its own authority*) 2 Cor. 5:11-21 (NIV), 2 Cor. 2:14-16 (NIV), Rom. 5:6 & 5:10 (NIV), Rom. 8:17, 32 & 37 (NIV), Jm. 1:17 (NIV), Mt. 5:45 (NIV), Gen. 12:3 (NIV)

Implications (*takeaways from the message*)

1: We have been freed from death and beckoned into God’s Kingdom; that means we should look and live differently.

2: God’s Kingdom isn’t a “one and done” experience, it’s about stepping in further and deeper.

3: God’s forgiveness and mission extends to everybody, always.

4: We are highly favored in that we could act as God’s ambassadors to the world.

Discussion Questions (*going beyond the surface*)

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21. What appeal is God making through us?
2. An ambassador is a country or kingdom’s authorized representative or messenger. How does your life portray that you are an ambassador for Christ?
3. How do you weigh your own opinions and objectives against the message of God’s kingdom?
4. Ambassadors must be able to communicate and represent well in the world they reside. What steps can you take to bring you further and deeper into relationships that will draw others into God’s kingdom?

Prayer Requests (*record, share, and follow up throughout the week. Use the LEAD App or CCB if possible.*)

Closing Prayer (*ask openly for a volunteer, encourage your people to step outside of their comfort zone regularly*)

