



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 4 of 4 | Sermon date: November 7, 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)*

As we close the kingdom series, we're invited to wrestle with our potentially long held beliefs of what we think the gospel actually is. The majority of Jesus' teaching is on what the gospel is; the kingdom of Heaven is near. That is the gospel, the good news. It's that we, as believers, facilitate bringing more of Heaven here and now. What does/could that look like for you personally, in your home, or place of work, or community? Consider the things that hold you back from living in a way that bring more of Heaven here and what could you do differently to intentionally share the truth of the gospel!

Leading *(facilitate your group effectively)*

This week's sermon challenges our understanding of what the Gospel means to us. This message of Good News takes us beyond salvation and the role we have in being disciples in the Kingdom of God. As you lead discussion this week, many of us that have been in the church for a while might come with strong beliefs that the Gospel is focused on salvation. Help the group to discuss their long-held beliefs in what the Gospel means and the challenges of going beyond the day they were "saved". As you step into Question 3, hang out with the matter of discipleship in relationship. Living out the Kingdom of God cannot happen by ourselves but must happen in community with others. So, as you carry discussion into actional steps, help the group to identify areas where they can live out their lives in this world sharing the goodness and faithful generosity of our God.

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

This week we finalize our Kingdom series with a sermon on what that looks like. We know it's about the good news (of course) but also, it includes bringing His kingdom here. Be ready to share with your people the ways and means you intentionally do this in your day-to-day life. Ask your folks to come to group with what their feelings about the salvation message and kingdom focus were growing up, and perhaps how they have changed as they have walked with Christ throughout their lives. Ask them to consider whether bringing the kingdom to earth is a solo-act, or something best done in community? Give some examples of how you have shared the salvation message in your lifetime and how you hope to bring His kingdom to earth in a new way as you move forward in your faith.

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

Join us November 14th from 6:30-8:30 for an evening with Dr. Preston Sprinkle. It will be a conversation about faith, sexuality, and gender. Click [here](#) to register.

REMEMBER: "Every group deserves a great leader."



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SERIES| The Kingdom | WEEK 4 of 4 | Sermon date: November 7, 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*) Growing up, did you act differently when you stayed with other family members? How so 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*) **Mt.** 3:1-2 (NIV), **Mt.** 4:17 (NIV), **Mt.** 10:7 (NIV), **Lk.** 10:9 (NIV), **Acts** 1:3 (NIV), **Acts** 8:12 (NIV), **Acts** 28:30-31 (ESV), **Lk.** 17:20-21 (ESV)

Implications (*takeaways from the message*)

1. Discipleship must be more than teaching; it is the pursuit of our God-given purpose, which can be fully realized in this life.
2. We do not get to decide by ourselves what it looks like to live out the Kingdom of God; that decision must be made in community.
3. The invitation of the gospel isn't just about salvation; it is an invitation into a new way of understanding how to live life in this world, here and now.
4. Therefore, our testimony is not about deliverance from sin; it is about the goodness and faithful generosity of our God.

Discussion Questions (*going beyond the surface*)

1. Several verses indicate that the Gospel is that the Kingdom of God is near. According to Luke 17:20-21, where is the Kingdom of God located and what does that mean?
2. The Gospel is about so much more than just salvation, it's about God's kingdom, here and now. What does this mean to you and does that challenge any long held beliefs?
3. Can you live among the kingdom in isolation? Explain why or why not.
4. How can you extend the reach of God's kingdom to those around you this season through your thoughts, speech and actions?

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*)

