

LIFE GROUPS

LEADER PAGE | Acts | WEEK 19 of 30 | Sermon date: May 8, 2022

Discipleship Phrase: God's church, God's way.

Big Idea for Series: God's church is built on His principles.

Abiding *(grow as a disciple yourself)*

Spend 5 minutes in prayer, continuously repeating this verse, Psalm 139:14. Let the truth of God's word sink deep down into your soul. "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." – Psalm 139:14. Read that last part one more time, "I know that full well..." Do you know that full well?

Leading *(facilitate your group effectively)*

This week, there's basically just two questions and one directive. In question one, we'll read three Scripture references that speak to God's character and design for each of us. Everything God does is intentional, even His plans for us. Mine out this truth on a head level. Question two prompts us to explore where we are at with these truths currently. It's exposing and convicting for most as it calls into question what we really believe about ourselves through God's eyes. This one has the tendency to get very emotional. Question three is an exercise that will help speak life into those in your group and will reaffirm some of the truths about their God given design. Set it up well and follow through strong.

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

This is one of those "game-changer" weeks in terms of relational growth. This week's exercise provides opportunities to connect and be vulnerable, while allowing for transformative change to begin. Many people struggle with their identity in Christ, who He made us to be. You need to pay close attention to both body language and spoken words and make special note of those who do not share. Be sure to follow up with each person this week to affirm the unique character traits/qualities you see in them that speak to how God created them and the difference those traits make. This affirmation can be done via text, a phone call, or an email...but, making the effort this week to affirm His goodness in the people you shepherd can make all the difference.

Life Group Leader Announcements *(be in the know & share with your group)*

Save the date! May 22nd from 10:3-11:30, Jen Shoutta will be hosting a Life Group Leader Prayer Gathering in meeting room C. Come spend time with other Life Group leaders learning the "how to's" of scripture fed, spirit led, worship based prayer where seek the face of God together.

REMEMBER:

"Every group deserves a great leader."

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Welcome/Introductions & Opening Prayer

Ice Breaker, God Moments, or Highs & Lows (*choose what fits best*)

Weekly Vision (*Announcements, The “Why”, Goal, Outreach, Guidelines, & Branching*)

Guidelines: Confidentiality, Avoid Crosstalk, Avoid fixing & Rescuing, Use “I” Statements, Contribute over Consume, Be Mindful of Self (allow all to share & use humor responsibly).

Ask a Hook Question (*a thought-provoking question*)

What’s the most valuable thing you have every owned?

Recap the Message (*ask a couple people to share*)

Scripture References (*Read scriptures directly from the Bible*)

Psalms 139: 13-14 (ESV), **Proverbs** 16:9 (ESV), **Romans** 11:28-31 (ESV)

Implications (*takeaways from the message*)

1. Jesus Christ does not need to be what we think he should be. He is who he is.
2. You have value and worth before the Lord because he says so, and he made you.
3. Scripture is God-breathed, timeless, and true for all people in all places at all places.
4. Our goal is the glory of God, not the approval of man.

Discussion Questions (*going beyond the surface*)

1. Read the above referenced scriptures. Does God have an intentional plan for your life? How do these scriptures reveal that?
2. God’s intentionality speaks to your value and worth. Do you believe that you are valuable and worthy? Why or why not?
3. Let’s take a moment to value each person. On strips of paper or post-its, have everyone write down one positive characteristic they see in each person. As the leader, gather them all up then start with one person and read every characteristic written about that person. Make direct eye contact with the person as you read the characteristics written about them. All they are allowed to say in response is “thank you”. Move on to the next person until all are read.

Closing Prayer (*ask openly for a volunteer*)