

LIFE GROUPS

LEADER PAGE | ASCENT | WEEK 1 of 15 | SERMON DATE August 7, 2022

Discipleship Phrase: “How do we prepare to go to church?”

Big Idea for Series: “Take your time with the people of God to receive from God.”

Abiding (Grow as a disciple yourself.)

We’re tempted to believe is that justice delayed is justice denied but nothing could be further from the truth. God has promised a day when he will judge the living and the dead through his Son (see Romans 2:16). If we don’t embrace this truth, we can easily give into the temptation to take matters into our own hands. Yet in the end, we’ll discover that whatever evil we have endured in this life at the hands of others will either have been judged at the cross or will be judged when he returns - either way, all that is wrong will be made right. What evil are you facing that you need to entrust to Jesus?

Leading (Facilitate your Life Group effectively.)

In Q. 1, the aim is to see what God’s word says by reading Scripture and discussing it. Q. 2 asks us to share where we might have a heart of war rather than peace. We’re also asked to consider why we’d try to steal God’s vengeance. (Ex: “I don’t trust that God is going to resolve it my way.”) Asking a follow-up question like “Why do you feel that way?” might be a great way at digging deeper into the heart behind the matter. Q. 3 asks us to ponder how we could display a heart of peace this week. Ask them to be specific and commit to following through.

Shepherding (Know, feed, lead and protect your Life Group.)

After the discussion, reflect on others’ stages of growth. Seek to have deeper conversations on how they can love better and recognize life with others will be difficult. And for those struggling with retaliation, walk through how faith in God is more important than being right. In John 14:26 Jesus says, the Holy Spirit “will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” Pray with your members that they will rely on the Holy Spirit to give them strength, help, comfort and guidance when circumstances are difficult.

Church Announcements

“Refocus” is our annual mid-season Life Group Leader Training designed to help keep Leaders focused on our top priority of spiritual growth, while ensuring continued alignment to the mission and vision of Life Groups. It will take place on August 28, 2022 from 12:30pm-3:30pm. A free lunch will be provided! Registration coming soon.

Remember: “Every group deserves a great leader.”

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Welcome, Introductions + Opening Prayer (5 Minutes)

Ice Breaker, God Moments, or Highs + Lows (5 Minutes)

Weekly Vision (Announcements, The “Why”, Goal, Outreach, Guidelines & Branching – 5 Minutes)

Guidelines: use confidentiality; avoid cross talk; avoid fixing and rescuing; use “I” statements; contribute over consume; and be mindful of self

Ask A Hook Question (5 Minutes)

How do you handle bad drivers?

Recap The Message (5 Minutes)

Ask a few people to recap the message.

Scripture References

Romans 12:9-21

Implications (Takeaways from the message)

1. Difficult circumstances are part of life. We cannot escape them or let them consume us.
2. Corporate worship helps us endure.
3. Our ability to love our enemies rests in our capacity to trust God. Coming together reminds us of that truth.
4. Even when we are surrounded by people with a heart of war, we can maintain a heart of peace. This represents God accurately.

Discussion Questions (55 Minutes - Going beyond the surface)

1. Read Romans 12:9-21. There are several commands in this passage that teach us what we as disciples should do. What does it specifically say not to do? Why do you think that is?
2. What area of your life are you repaying evil for evil? Where are you desiring to take revenge?
3. What will you do this week to “feed” your enemy or give him something to “drink”?

Closing Prayer (Ask openly for a volunteer – 10 Minutes)