

LIFE GROUPS

LEADER PAGE | ASCENT | WEEK 3 of 15 | SERMON DATE August 21, 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.)

Reflect this week on 1 Peter 2:1-5; 9-17. In Christ, we are justified. By his Spirit, we are being sanctified. As one who has been justified in Christ, take a look at your “spiritual house” and ask yourself what needs to be cleansed to represent who God is? What message are you sending to others? Verse 9 says, “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” Pray that the Lord would reveal areas in you that are not reflecting His heart well to the world.

Leading (Facilitate your Life Group effectively.)

Q. 2 says, “How does it feel to hear that you’re God’s representative?” Author Simay Gokbayrak explains, “A big part of effectively sharing emotions is correctly identifying your feelings. Because difficult emotions can often be complex, it’s essential to take a moment of self-reflection to identify what you’re feeling and then permit yourself to feel those feelings. For example, you might start by asking yourself, “What am I noticing, feeling, or thinking?” If it’s hard to identify, you could focus on sensations in your body first. Is there any tension or stress there? Sensations can often be clues about our feelings, like anger.” If it feels like your Life Group is stuck when it comes to this question, encourage them to pause to identify and accept their feelings. No feeling is off limits. Go first and share.

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

As disciples of Jesus, we’re called to live differently than the world around us. We’re His representatives, and that is a weighty but meaningful call. Make sure to take time out of your week to encourage those in your group who are obedient to Jesus. For those struggling to do so, remind them that some days, it’s a marathon and not a sprint. Being honest about where you’re at with Jesus today is a powerful first step. Moving into the space where you act upon it is the next.

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!

Remember: “Every group deserves a great leader.”

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FACILITATOR PAGE | ASCENT | WEEK 3 of 15 | DATE August 21, 2022

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)

Have you ever felt proud to represent something greater than yourself?

Recap The Message (5 Minutes)

Ask a few people to recap the message.

Scripture References

1 Peter 2:1-5; 9-17

Implications (Takeaways from the message)

1. The Goal of the church community is to reflect God’s heart to the world – especially those who don’t know Him yet.
2. Our goal should always be peace within the body. Unity isn’t uniformity.
3. God is looking for a house. We are living stones giving a testimony about who He is and where He lives.
4. We should always be wrestling with how we are making people better. Are others better because they interacted with us?

Discussion Questions (55 Minutes - Going beyond the surface)

1. Read 1 Peter 2:1-5; 9-17. How do you see God’s part and our part contrasted in this passage?
2. How does it feel to hear that you’re God’s representative?
3. What steps can you begin to take to represent him better?

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