

Devoted

Living deeply and widely in the family of God



Life Group Connection Guide

Seeks to help you dig deeper into God's Word on your own and aid in your discussion in a Life Group during the week. Follow the simple prompts below in a journal or together in a small group setting. If you would like to join a midweek Life Group, please contact: jon@neighborhoodchurch.com

Jan. 11 — Devoted to the Word of God (Psalm 1:1-6)

- **Welcome & Ice Breaker:**
 - *If you could have one of your favorite bible stories or books of the bible turned into a movie or series, what would you choose? Why? How would that impact your faith? How could that impact our world?*
- **Important Dates:**
 - Youth Groups Tuesday Evenings 7-8:30pm • Cypress Campus Gym
 - SHINE KIDS Returns January 21 @ 6:45-8:15pm • Cypress Campus Gym
- **Opening Prayers:**
 - Hold yourself before the Lord // Psalm 139:23
 - *What emotions are you feeling as you come to Life Group?*
 - Hold all of yourself out to Him and sit quietly • Allow God to come close to you & care for you in prayer right now • Listen for His voice/presence/leading
 - Hold what you are holding before the Lord // Psalm 90:17
 - *What are you dealing with, working on, preparing for?*
 - Hold it out to Him and sit quietly • Allow God to come close to you & establish the work of your hands • Listen for His voice/presence/leading
 - Return • Recommit • Repent • Reattach to the LORD who is with you // Psalm 139:24
 - Draw near to God as He draws near to you
 - "...I acquiesce to You Abba Father, to work and pray and seek Your own through me"
- **Scripture Passage: Psalm 1:1-6**
 - Begin by reading the passage out loud; even a few times if it is a shorter passage in order to let it settle down inside you.
 - As the Scripture is being read, pay attention to any word, phrase, or feeling that the Holy Spirit may be highlighting to you.
 - Then share what you noticed and/or write down your observations as the Spirit leads.
- **Discussion/Personal Reflection**
 - What challenged you, or stood out to you during your devotional time with the Lord Jesus this week?

- If you were able to hear it, what did the Holy Spirit point out to you personally from Sunday's sermon?

- **Delight vs. Discipline.** Read Colossians 3:16. Psalm 1 describes a person who delights in the law of the Lord, while Acts 2 shows believers who devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching. Where do you experience reading God's Word more as duty than delight? Has it always been this way? When has it not? What is your goal when you read the Scriptures? What would it look like for delight in Scripture to reshape your daily rhythms?

- **Formation Before Fruit.** Read John 15:4-7. Psalm 1 promises fruitfulness for the one rooted in God's Word, while Acts 2 shows a community transformed in generosity, unity, and awe. How has devotion to God's Word shaped who you are becoming, not just what you know? Where is fruit lacking in your life or in our church—and could that be connected to shallow engagement with Scripture? How might deeper devotion to Jesus through His Word reshape our character and community?

- **Private Roots, Public Witness.** Read Joshua 1:8. Psalm 1 highlights private meditation on God's Word, while Acts 2 reveals public impact, joy, and favor with others. How do your private practices with Scripture shape your public witness for Jesus? What connection do you see between devotion to God's Word and the church's spiritual power and credibility? What might God do in our city if we were truly devoted to His Word together?

- **Closing in Prayer:**

- Ministries/Missionaries: *Andres & Dana Bonilla Bedoya Family*
 - *Medical missionaries in the Middle East*
 - *Please pray for the Lord to open hearts and make a way to deepen relationships with villagers. Specifically, please pray for the village "Deeya" where we did a dental outreach recently. Pray that God will guide us to those who have softened hearts for the Hope that Christ offers. Use this time to share prayer requests (with the Lord in a journal or with each other in a Life Group), holding them up to the Lord Jesus for His care & guidance this next week.*
- Consider those who the Holy Spirit may be placing on your heart to pray for • Hold them up to the Lord for His intervening love in their lives • Allow Him to care for them through your prayer right now.
 - *"Lord, who are You putting on my heart today? Who needs a special touch from You in their life? Who can I hold up to You in prayer?"*