



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

April 12 — Living in God's Grace (Galatians 1:1-10)

- **Welcome & Ice Breaker:**
 - *Invite everyone to think of a time when they experienced unexpected grace—something they didn't earn or deserve but received anyway; it could be from God or through another person. Go around the group and have each person share: What happened? Why it felt like grace? How it brought you joy? After everyone has shared, ask: what do all these stories tell us about what God's grace is like?*
- **Important Dates:**
 - **SHINE Returns** Wednesday, April 15 • 6:45pm-8:15pm • Ages TK-6th Grade • Cypress Campus Gym
 - **Pickle Ball Tournament** Saturday, April 26 • Interested? Email: jericho@neighborhoodchurch.com
- **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
 - *"Heavenly Father, I live and have my being in You. I humbly pray You would so guide & govern me by Your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations in my life that I may not forget You, but may remember that I am ever walking in Your sight; through Jesus Christ my Lord, amen."*
- **Scripture Passage: Galatians 1:1-10**
 - 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?

- Read 1 Thessalonians 2:4. What has believers been entrusted with here? What does Paul state is his ultimate purpose? What comes first before believers are entrusted with the gospel and/or seek to please God? How does God's approval of us shape us? Who would you say is easier to please: God or people? How so? How does living in God's grace free us from the exhausting need to earn acceptance from others? How does living to please others actually enslave us?

- Read Ephesians 2:8-10 . How would you explain what God's grace is to a new believer? How does one experience God's grace each day? Have you ever found yourself hiding behind your good works to gain God's attention, hoping to please Him? What is the difference between serving God to earn His approval and serving Him because I already have it in Christ? How does understanding God's grace change the way I live and serve Christ?

- Read John 12:26. What does it practically look like to be a "servant of Christ" in everyday life? Paul connects pleasing God with identifying himself as Christ's servant. Living in grace leads to a life centered on Christ's will rather than personal reputation. What areas of my life still revolve around protecting my image rather than serving Christ? Where might Christ be calling me to courageous obedience? Where might He want me to surrender control of my reputation for His?

- **Closing in Prayer:**

- 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 this day. Seek to hold them up to the Lord for His intervening love in their lives or in your own.
- *"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?"*