



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

May 3 — Experiencing Grace from God the Father (*Galatians 3:1-4:7*)

- **Welcome & Ice Breaker:**
 - *Go around the group and ask: "What's something you'd be brave enough to try once... but you probably shouldn't do it again?" Ask people to rate themselves quickly (no overthinking) on how brave they are from 1-10; 10 being Bravest. What's your '10' brave moment? What's something that feels like a '10' but you've avoided doing it? If there's time: share about a time you tried to be brave... and it went slightly (or very) wrong!*
- **Important Dates:**
 - **Bible Day Camp Registration** Begins Friday, May 26 @ neighborhoodchurch.com
 - **Baptism Sunday** Sunday, May 17 • Want to follow Jesus in baptism? Email: lorena@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 3:23-29**
 - 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 Romans 3:20-24. How would you summarize Paul's words here? What is now "counted toward us" because of Jesus? Where do we tend to be tempted to rely on our performance instead of Christ's finished work? In what subtle ways do you still try to earn God's approval (morally, spiritually, or even in ministry)? How does Christ becoming a curse for you reshape your daily sense of acceptance before the Father?

- Read Romans 8:14-17. What is the great exchange that has taken place here? Our fear for God's what? How does this passage of Scripture free you & give you peace? What do you think it practically means for us to live as a son/daughter rather than a slave? Through Christ, we are adopted—not just forgiven. How does viewing God as your Father (Abba) change your approach to prayer, obedience, and identity? Where do you still relate to God more like a servant earning wages than a child enjoying relationship?

- Read Galatians 3:2-5. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our salvation? How do you think the Holy Spirit helps us experience—not just understand—God's grace? Paul reminds us that we began by the Spirit, not by works. In what ways are you depending on the Spirit's ongoing work rather than your own effort? What practices help you stay rooted in grace so that your growth is Spirit-empowered rather than self-driven?

- **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?"*