

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

Feb. 8 — Devoted to the Holy Spirit (John 14,15,16)

- **Welcome & Ice Breaker:**
 - Jesus uses the word *paraclete* when talking about the promise of the Holy Spirit. *Paraclete* can be translated in different ways: *advocate, helper, comforter, counselor*. Which image of the Holy Spirit resonates with you most right now? Why is that?
- **Important Dates:**
 - **Donate to Care Packs** VERY MUCH IN NEED OF: chewy granola bars, peanut butter crackers, fruit snacks, individual Kleenex packs, and men's XL athletic socks (black or white) • Drop Off in Cypress Campus Lobby
 - **Baptism Sunday** Feb. 22 • Have you followed Jesus in being baptized? Contact Pastor Terry
 - terry@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*
 - *...I acquiesce to You Abba Father, to work and pray and seek Your own through me"*
- **Scripture Passage: John 14:16-17, 25-26; 15:26-27; 16:7-8, 13-14**
 - 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 Isaiah 11:1-10. What is the effect of God's Spirit on this descendent of Jesse, King David's Father? What will characterize His reign? How does the resting on the Spirit on this King, impact how the Spirit rests upon the earth? What does this passage make you long for? Where do you most need the Holy Spirit of God to rest on you and bring the peace of Jesus into it?
- Read Ezekiel 36:26-27. How will God renovate His children with the Holy Spirit here? What will happen inside of us? What will be the effect of the Spirit be here? What will the Spirit accomplish in us that we could never accomplish without Him? What are you trying to accomplish these days apart from the Holy Spirit? Why is that? How might the Holy Spirit be directing you back to the heart of God even in that struggle?
- Read Romans 8:26-27. What does Paul tell us about the Holy Spirit here? What does Paul tell us about ourselves as human beings here? What is the invitation here from the Holy Spirit when we are weak? How might praying without words when we are weak actually allow the Holy Spirit to pray for us from the inside out? Take a few moments of silence before God, sitting with the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to see your heart (without explanation) and intercede for you before God the Father. Rest in the confidence that your weakness does not disqualify you (Rom 8:1) but opens you to trust on the God who is in control (Rom 8:28).

- **Closing in Prayer:**

- Ministries/Missionaries: Bob & Kim Clark
 - *Provide biblical training, teaching seminary or other formal training in Manila, Philippines*
 - *Please pray with us, our family and the people of Manila and the Philippines and ask the Lord for great and mighty things. Pray without ceasing and trust His truth and sovereignty in the gospel of life and salvation to be unavoidable and effective in the hearts and lives of the Filipino people. Pray for trained leaders who are effective in preaching truth and proclaiming the gospel.*
- 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?*