



LIFE GROUPS | LEADERS GUIDE

October 5-11, 2025 | Fall Week 2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well, you've all held and hosted your first event this past week – we hope and pray that all went well, and that you got to interact with some great people, and that you set to the tone for the next 8 weeks – preparing yourselves and your groups for the good work that the Lord intends to do in and through each of you.

1. YOUR SECOND MEETING:

- As your first meeting was more than likely a time of initial gathering, where you got to know new members, caught up with existing members, laughed and told stories; this next night, is when if you didn't dive into the material, you do now. Leaders, be sure to prepare, to listen and engage with the message on Sunday morning and to read through this guide to set you up to lead your group through the discussion.
- Two reminders:
 - Watch your time as you lead your group and the discussion. Parents have to get back to their kids, pick them up from events, farmers need to be up early the next morning, etc. Set the time, and be done by then! Then if people want talk in the foyer for another hour, they can!
 - Click the "Take Attendance" button the email that comes near the time that your meeting takes place. That helps us understand that our groups are running, and that our people are engaging,

2. SERVE PROJECTS:

- We have curated a list of serve sites and opportunities across our city – have a look [HERE](#), for that last, and sign up for an event that grabs everyone's interest. Some dates are flexible; others are pre-booked – connect with pastor Adam to start planning your Serve event.

3. PICTURES:

- We love seeing what you're all up to! Take pictures of your meeting spaces, your group gathered around the kitchen counter with their snacks and drinks, and your group out having fun, and serving together – then share them with Pastor Adam – via email or text.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

LEADER NOTE: These are the lowest risk questions and are great ways to get everyone in your group talking – from those who love sharing stories, to those who feel a little uncomfortable in this new space. Low risk questions have their way of breaking the ice and getting everyone a little more comfortable sharing. It also gives a chance for everyone to share in an easy, approachable way.

1. What is a gift you have received, that you will never forget?

LEADER NOTE: Sometimes these questions are best lead when you say, “*let’s go around the room and hear everyone!*” That way everyone can contribute and can be heard – and ultimately felt welcome in the group.

2. What is the most significant anniversary you’ve celebrated (whether relationship, career, life milestone, etc.)?

LEADER NOTE: This question might not work as well to “*go around the room,*” but you can still invite everyone to share something. This question too, isn’t just aimed at the married couples in your group but aimed at everyone to look back at their lives and to acknowledge and celebrate key accomplishments. Yes, there will likely be a lot of marriage anniversaries noted – those are certainly worthy of celebrating. But those who share about tenure in their workplace, friendships lasting decades, living in the same home, serving in the same ministry – are all worthy to note!

QUICK REVIEW

LEADER NOTE: These following two questions aim to have your group reflect upon Sunday’s message. The first question will always be the same, and the second one is provided from our teaching pastor from the service.

1. Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

LEADER NOTE: Use this question first as a teaching moment, observe your room, and see if there are anyone who doesn’t have the sermon guide, and be sure that they know where to find it. We say each season, “*Lead by example.*” In the services, be sure to grab a guide, fill it out, scratch down extra thoughts and notes, and have that with you at your Life Group meetings.

Also, with these questions, we want to be sure that we don’t make them about evaluating the message, but that we’re listening together, for what God is teaching us through them. Leaders, we leave this to you to help guide conversations towards productive, good, and wholesome conversation – that’s uplifting and encouraging for all in the room.

2. On Sunday morning, Pastor Bert said, “*Because the heart of God Himself has been and remains our home address, we have all reason to celebrate this significant anniversary.*” How have you seen God work in and through our church in your time with us?

LEADER NOTE: As our church family takes this weekend to celebrate and acknowledge God’s faithfulness to our community for these 75 years, it’s good too for us in our Life Groups to see where we

have seen the Lord's hand in our time at Gateway. For some, that might be all the 75 years, for others, it might be just in the last year.

SCRIPTURE REVIEW

LEADER NOTE: Reading scripture together is one of the most important practices in our Life Groups, so never shirk away from reading the following passage, always making time to interact with the Word of God and its message for us. As leaders, you can read the passage yourselves, invite others to read the whole text, or go around the room from paragraph to paragraph. Over time, as you lead, you'll see what works best. Always say "*thank-you*" to those who read out loud – it's not everyone's favourite thing to do.

These questions that follow, will be the same throughout the semester. And if you're familiar with the "*Triad Questions*" from over the years, these are changed up a bit – simplified, and with slightly different emphases.

READ Psalm 90

1. How does this passage highlight God's presence in our world?
2. What does this passage say about our broken human condition?
3. How does this passage call me to make change in my life?

Another option with these questions, is to even more simply ask, once you've read the passage together, as in a general way, "*What strikes us about this passage?*"

DIGGING DEEPER

LEADERS NOTE: These discussion questions generally start simple and gradually become deeper and more complex. This progression follows natural discussion patterns, but as leaders, you know your group best. Use this guide flexibly; it is not necessary to cover every question. Focus on ensuring everyone is heard and has the opportunity to contribute and ask their questions.

1. READ Psalm 90:1-4. Moses likely wrote this Psalm while leading the Nation of Israel in the wilderness, how would these words have spoken to Israel in the wilderness?

LEADER NOTE: It's fascinating to understand that Moses, who lived roughly 400 years before David wrote all his Psalms, and likely wrote it in the context when he was leading the nation of Israel in the wilderness, after fleeing from the hands of the Egyptians and crossing the Red Sea. This fact makes this psalm the oldest psalm in the whole book of 150 Psalms. Knowing then, the rough location, and circumstances of the Israelites help us understand just how they would have received these words from Moses.

Remember, that while the nation lived in the wilderness, they were known for depending upon themselves, more than they depended on God. They moaned and complained to Moses about lack of food and water, they moaned and complained about not having a tangible god. But yet, God provided them water from rocks, food in the form of manna and quail, and sandals that never wore out – all as they lived in tents, covered in dust. They were constantly reminded of their frailty, their sin, and their need for God's mercy. Moses' words here in Psalm 90 would have pointed them back to God, who is bigger and mightier than their tents and manna. They would have seen the hills and mountains around them, and be

reminded that God placed those there, they would look at the earth below their feet and see that God placed them there.

- **READ Deuteronomy 33:27a, John 15:4, & Revelation 21:3.** How does the language of God being our “*dwelling place*” or “*refuge*,” strike us today?

LEADER NOTE: While Moses’ words about God being the “*dwelling place*” or “*refuge*” for the nation of Israel, today, we can read and understand that God is the same for us today, and is more so, because of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. These three passages give us the scope of the scriptural understanding that it’s always been God’s design for humanity to rest in Him, and that fact wasn’t just limited or reserved for the Israelites, or the Jews. Jesus invites us to “*abide in*” Him, to exist within His love and care, and the passage in Revelation tells us that even when everything else in this world fails or ceases – that God’s intention and plan is to “*dwell among the people*.” The truth that is communicated throughout all scripture that God will never leave nor forsake His people (**Deut 31:6, Josh 1:5, Isa 41:10, Matt 28:20, & Rom 8:38-39**), is abundantly true, and offers followers of Him, the greatest comfort and assurance that we won’t ever have to sort out the challenges and difficulties of this complex life on planet earth on our own.

ADDITIONAL QUESTION:

- As our church celebrates 75 years, how does Psalm 90 remind us of where our true “*home address*” lies? In what ways has Gateway Church made this tangible?

LEADER NOTE: This question will drive your members to consider the truth of God’s faithfulness and forever indwelling presence in our own church community at Gateway. While we know with firm certainty that God exists beyond our church walls and is working in astounding ways throughout the world, it is good for us to take note of how we have experienced His provision as a church family. Consider the number of families that have been a part of this community for these 75 years? Consider the number of baptisms (both infant and adult) that we’ve participated within? The number of Professions of Faith and stories of God’s faithfulness we’ve witnessed? Think of the mission trips, the service opportunities, and community engagements we’ve partnered in. What else comes to mind?

2. READ Psalm 90:1-11. Psalm 90 contrasts the everlasting and timeless nature of God with the brevity and frailty of humanity. Where and how in this text do you see Moses making this contrast?

LEADER NOTE: So much of scripture articulates just where we as humanity exist within the relationship we have with God, Moses tells us, “*God is God, and you are not.*” But he does a little more than just put it plainly. He writes about God,

- “*dwelling place in all generations*”
- “*you formed the earth ...*”
- “*from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*”
- “*a thousand years in your sight ...*”
- “*you sweep them away as with a flood ... like a dream...*”
- “*... by your anger ...*”
- “*you have set our iniquities ...*”

Moses writes about humanity,

- “*you return man to dust ...*”
- “*... it fades and withers.*”
- “*... brought to an end ...*”

- “... *we are dismayed ...*”
- “... *our iniquities ... our sin ...*”
- “... *our days pass away ...*”

It becomes abundantly clear when you list out the words and phrases like this, that Moses clearly understands, and so desperately desires the nation of Israel to catch on – that God is God, and that they are not.

- **READ John 11:25-27.** How does Psalm 90’s view of human frailty prepare us to understand the hope of eternal life in Christ?

LEADER NOTE: As just noted, Psalm 90 places us as humanity right where we need to be – in humble submission to the everlasting God almighty, who is the author and perfecter of all things. While Moses didn’t articulate the coming of Jesus in this Psalm, as modern day Christians, we have the whole Bible, and a text like this in John 11, where Jesus tells us plainly, that it is through Him that we have the ability to live, we are pointed to the hope that Christ’s death and resurrection leaves us – that when it comes to eternity and being present with our everlasting God, we do in fact have access.

Don’t stop the conversation there but go a little further to what life will look like as we dwell fully and completely with God. Earlier we read **Revelation 21:3**, now go and read **21:4**, in the context of **21:3**, and this discussion. While God intends to dwell wholly with His people, while there, there will be no more tears, no more death, no more mourning, crying, or pain of any kind. “*For the former things have passed away.*” Even, the brevity and frailty of human life.

3. READ Psalm 90:12-17. After contrasting God’s eternal presence and human brevity, Moses prays. What are the main requests that he offers to the Lord? What do you understand Moses to be praying for?

LEADER NOTE: These verses can be understood to be a grouping three requests. Request #1: Vs. 12-13, Moses prays for the Lord to help him, and the nation of Israel to be aware of their earthly limitations, while growing in their wisdom to help navigate how their lives are still directed to go forward. Request #2: Vs. 14-15, Moses prays for a greater assurance and felt reality of God’s love, and that they’d experience joy and pleasure in this life through His provision. Request #3: Vs. 16-17, Moses recognizes that it’s only through God’s provision that anything of value can be done in and through them, so he prays that God would continue to use himself and the nation to do a good work there in the wilderness.

These requests can be summed up like this:

- Vs12-13: to be aware of limitations,
 - Vs14-15: to continue in God’s love,
 - Vs16-17: to be effective in being God’s hands and feet.
- What might it look like for God to answer these same prayers in our lives today?

LEADER NOTE: In today’s challenging and complex world, we might need to find ourselves praying for the same things. Surely the immediate challenges that the nation of Israel were facing are slightly different than what we might face today, but the heart of the matter and concern are still the same. We aren’t living in tents in the dusty desert, but are still stricken by selfish and unbelieving hearts, we’re still filled with overconfident and self-assured motives, we think too much of ourselves, and not enough of the Lord’s desire for us. Therefore, it becomes prudent that we desire to press forward into the next 75 years that the Lord might have for us as a church family, we need to ask the Lord to help us be aware of

our human limitations, to be more aware of His love for us, and for us to be humble enough to share that reality with all of our neighbors.

TAKING IT HOME

READ Acts 17:28, Romans 11:36, Heidelberg Catechism Q&A#1. Christians are to find their belonging nature completely in God and within His care. How can we be confident that we're doing that?

LEADER NOTE: Luke (**Acts 17**) and Paul (**Romans 11**) both have this uncanny awareness that they reside in the palm of God's hands, and that in everything they do, they do within His care, with His provision, and within His grasp. HC's Q&A#1, shares the same vantage point – it's first line of the answer is telling of the same "*God is God, and we are not*" reality. It says, "*That I am not my own...*". In the 21st century, we're seeing the patterns of life dramatically change – and at the core of discomfort with all this change, is our selfishness and entitlement – that we deserve this life, the way it is, because that's the way it's always been. But the reality, is that it's never been about us as humanity. While yes, we've been at the center of God's sights as the pinnacle and climax of the creation story, we are not about our own personal, or collective work, glory, or favor. It's always been about what God is doing.

How can we monitor or measure our ability to humbly submit to all that? That's easier said than done, in that we need to constantly posture ourselves where we belong – which is at the foot of the cross, not just pleading for God's mercy, but for the ability to receive it. After all, in our minds, we know about God's mercy and His forgiveness, but do we know how to accept it? Again, this is easier said than done. Our confidence comes first in the full and complete work that Christ did for us on the cross, it comes second in our daily patterns and reflections of that same reality. Are we engaging with God's Word? Are we talking and communicating with Him through prayers and other spiritual practices? As we go to and fro in this world, are people seeing Christ in us? As we say yes to those questions, so our confidence can grow, that we do understand that we "*in Him, live and move and have our being*" (**Acts 17:28**).

PERSONAL REFLECTION

LEADER NOTE: This following question is completely optional and is intended for the participants' personal reflection. But do feel free to explore using the question within your groups meeting.

READ John 10:7-21. Psalm 90:16-17. Our lives are all about God's work and contributions, and not ours. It's His work, His glory, and His favour to be upon us, and manifested in and through us. Meaning, the only work that lasts and has any value, is that which God establishes, ordains, and sustains in us. But yet, every fiber of our human condition says, "*but what about me?*" Why is this? What can we do to reorient ourselves back to the Lord's desires?