



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK:

⇒ PREPARATION FOR THIS WEEK:

- Do the home work and choose questions best suited to your group.
 - Consider reaching out to the group for feedback on which questions to use.
- Listen to the [Audio Guide/Podcast](#) for more discussion suggestions.

LEADER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

⇒ FEEDBACK FORMS:

- LAST WEEK we have handed out feedback forms for your group!
 1. Hand out Feedback forms DURING your meeting this week to those who weren't there last week.
 2. Collect, and place into envelopes.
 3. This coming week, connect with Pastor Adam to see about getting the forms handed in.

[Note: Please do not hand them out and ask people to submit them on their own time. Give them 10 minutes at the meeting and take them back]
- THANKS so much for helping us in this way!
- Through the month of May, I hope to share findings from these feedback forms with our leaders, hoping to do this in person, so watch for some emails/texts/phone calls to schedule!

⇒ PICTURES:

- We are looking for more pictures – from your meetings, serve projects, or socials! We want to put together a highlight video to be shown to our church after this Life Group semester wraps up. Please email them directly to pastor Adam – adam@gatewaycrc.org. Invite your group members to follow through with this as well!

⇒ WEEK 10 IDEA:

- As week 9 concludes this semester of Life Groups, we want to invite you to consider planning a final Week 10 event in the coming weeks, that would look more like a social than a meeting. Consider it way to celebrate the journey your group has been on, and have fun with it!

LEADER INFORMATION:

⇒ WEEKLY LEADER TRAINING:

- Have a look at the end of this guide for information regarding “**Life Group Meetings and COVID-19.**”
- In light of our limitations when it comes to gathering our church body together, we plan to next week, share a few thoughts and ideas about how our Life Groups can be a part of the gathered church.

⇒ ATTENDANCE:

- Submit your group's attendance online at: <https://gatewaycrc.churchcenter.com/groups/life-groups>. Be sure to submit your attendance right away after your meeting.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

This is the last week of Life Groups this semester. Take some time as a group to reflect on these two questions:

1) What did you most enjoy about your group?

LEADER NOTE: This may be a good question to go around the room with, inviting all to respond.

2) What has God shown you about yourself and your journey of faith through your group?

LEADER NOTE: This question, you may want to leave out there for anyone to answer without expectation, as for being an opening question, is a little more high-risk.

QUICK REVIEW

LEADER NOTE: These are two questions that have your group reflecting back upon last Sunday's message.

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

2) This past weekend, Justin said, “you become the light of the world only as you are lit by him [Jesus]!” How did that hit you?

GOD'S STORY - TRIADS

LEADER NOTE: This are three question that we ask each week, and have us look at each passage we study through the same lens.

READ [Matthew 5:13-16](#)

1) **GOD** - What does this passage say about the character of God?

2) **THE WORLD** - What does this passage say about fallen humanity?

3) **ME** - Where does this passage specifically expose sin or unbelief in my own life? How does it specifically call me to change my thinking, redirect my affections, replace my behaviors, and trust my Savior?

DIGGING DEEPER

1) **READ Genesis 12:1-3.** God says to Abram in 12:2, “*Be blessed, in order to be a blessing.*” While considering how God used Abram’s life for His Kingdom purposes, think about how your life might be similarly used?

LEADER NOTE: A little reminder that Abraham was called Abram until Genesis 17, when God re-establishes His covenant with him. Before answering this question, you may want to spend some time reviewing Abraham’s life, by asking the additional question below.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

What do you remember about Abraham’s life?

DISCUSSION TIP: You may find that members of your group may not be able to identify similarly to Abram in this passage. Perhaps reframe the question like this:

ADDITIONAL QUESTION:

Do you think that as God made these promises to Abraham, that He made them to us as well?

In how Jesus says “*you are the salt*” and “*you are the light*,” He implies that His followers *will be* used in this world. How does that make you feel?

LEADER NOTE: This question has us look introspectively at our lives, therefore you might need to allow for some silence. Then if need be, lead the conversation off with how this assurance makes you feel, and invite others to share.

2) Read about how Jesus reforms Old Testament law right after He tells us that His followers are the salt and light of the earth: **Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28, 31-32, 33-34, 38-39, 43-44**. What changes? What is the new Kingdom focus that those who are salt and light must possess?

LEADER NOTE: In your preparations, also read Matthew 5:17-20, in order to bridge the conversation from the Sermon text, to these passages.

DISCUSSION TIP: You may want to invite different members of your group to read each passage, in doing so ask at each passage the question “What changes?” Then after reading and discussing each, then ask the question about the Kingdom focus.

READ 1 Timothy 1:3-5. Paul encourages his protégé to teach amongst adversity with pure motives. How do Paul’s words to Timothy in 1:5 reflect your answers from above?

LEADER NOTE: You may want to summarize all that you heard from question 2 before you go into reading this passage. Then you can ask these additional questions:

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

What do you understand to be a pure heart?

What do you understand to be a good conscience?

What does Paul mean by sincere faith?

3) **READ Philippians 1:3-6.** Paul writes about a good work that God has initiated in His followers. Thinking of the Pi² series, what is the connection between the invitation to “*partnership in the gospel*” and the “*good work*” that God has begun? What work has God begun in you? How is He using it for this world?

LEADER NOTE: As you lead through this question, you may want to spend some time with your group unpacking both statements before trying to find the connection, that way everyone can be on the same page.

ADDITIONAL QUESTION:

What level of comfort, if any, does God’s foreknowledge offer you?

LEADER NOTE: Do not be afraid to ask these questions, and allow for other bigger questions to naturally arise. While also, don’t feel like all those bigger questions need be fully answered. Remember, you are allowed to answer, “I don’t know.” It is simply good that your group members have the opportunity to simply just ask the hard questions.

TAKING IT HOME

1) Now that we have wrapped up the Pi² series, what have you discovered about yourself and God's call upon your life?

LEADER NOTE: Take some time here to think back to the beginning of the series when the Pi² cards were handed out, and reflect together the challenges you have all received.

Take some time in groups of 3 or 4 to pray as a team for your Pi² list.
(Note: Sharing names is "optional." There is no pressure to do so. But be praying for one another all the same as you seek to pray for the lost in your life.)

CLOSING YOUR MEETING: Close your meeting by asking for prayer requests, and spending time praying for each need that arises.

ADDITIONAL SELF STUDY *(Optional Personal Reflection Questions)*

LEADER NOTE: As you know, these questions are completely optional for participants' personal reflection.

1) **READ 1 Peter 2:9-12.** In the Old Testament, God used the Priests to connect His people to Himself. Here in the New Testament Peter says to the Jews who have been scattered from their homes and villages, that they are now the Priests commissioned to do the Work of the Lord amongst the Gentiles. Reflect upon your calling as a follower of Jesus, and what it means now that you are a Priest of the Lord?

2) **READ Psalm 18.** Focus in on verses 25-30. David writes that God's light gives him strength through his trials and adversity. Take a moment to reflect on when God has strengthened you like He did, David. Consider how that strength will carry you through your next trial.

GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

PICTURES: We are looking for more pictures – from your meetings, serve projects, or socials! We want to put together a highlight video to be shown to our church after this Life Group semester wraps up. Please email them directly to pastor Adam – adam@gatewaycrc.org.

GATEWAY HASHTAG CHALLENGE: Our Life Group coordinating team checks in on the hashtag postings weekly, and we are very grateful for the posts that have been made! Thanks everyone! We have just a few more weeks to post pictures from our events! Post your shots to FACEBOOK / TWITTER / INSTAGRAM, using **#GatewayLifeGroups**. Know that for INSTAGRAM, we can only see the pictures if the post is PUBLIC or if you're a FOLLOWER of one of us on the team. In the comments, write what you love about your group. At the end of the semester we will have a random draw. The winning Life Group will receive a \$250 gift card for their entire group to enjoy together! One entry per member. *[P.S. Leaders can also get 9 additional entries! All submitted attendance records on time also equals an entry!]*

Breakdown of entry possibilities:

- 1 entry per person, per group (max of 10 entries for the sake of fairness to smaller groups) = 10 total possible entries.
- 1 entry per submitted homework = 9 total possible entries.
= 19 POSSIBLE ENTRIES PER GROUP

"STAYING ON MESSAGE"

THE "BIG THREE" WITNESSING MYTHS WE BELIEVE:

1. ONLY CERTAIN CHRISTIANS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND ANY FAILED ATTEMPTS WILL THWART GOD'S PLANS.
Matthew 5:13-16
2. WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONVERTING PEOPLE.
1 Corinthians 3:6
3. WE HAVE NO RESPONSIBILITY TO COMMUNICATE THE GOSPEL TO PEOPLE.

THE "RATIONAL ELECTION MYTH"

"IF GOD IS SOVEREIGN (ALL POWERFUL) AND THE AUTHOR OF FAITH, THEN WHY PRAY, EVANGELIZE, OR DO ANYTHING AT ALL?"
Genesis 12:1-3; Romans 9:25; John 15:15-16

STAYING ON MESSAGE:

1. BY ABIDING WITH JESUS, WE CAN BE THE SALT AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD!
 1. THROUGH YOU, GOD WILL EXPOSE AND HEAL!
 2. THROUGH YOU, GOD WILL BRING JOY TO THE WORLD!
 3. THROUGH US, GOD WILL SEEK AND SAVE THE LOST!

"If some will perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprayed for."

~ Charles Spurgeon





LEADER TRAINING

“Leader Recommendations”

Dear Life Group leaders,

We are sure one of the questions you might be asking is, “*Should our Life Group meet this week?*” Or even “*May I invite members of my Life Group over to watch the message in the Sunday morning(s) to come when we won’t be gathering?*” The short answer is “Yes!” to both. However, the answer to that question is also multifaceted. Below is a series of quotations from Andy Crouch’s “*Love in the Time of Coronavirus.*” Use this as a guide to your Life Group meetings this week and in the weeks to come. Two notes before you read what is below:

- 1) We will leave it to each leader to decide whether to meet as a Life Group, but we do encourage you to consider ways in which your entire group (or perhaps 2-3 *clusters* of Life Group families) can meet together in the weeks to come. That said,
- 2) Be sure to honor your Life Group members’ decision if they choose not to meet. If they make such a decision, look for ways to still enfold these members. Emails, prayers, and group chats are great ways to stay connected in the weeks to come.

So, please note. Life Groups and their families *can* meet together and are encouraged to do so. If you do meet, we encourage you to consider the following provisions:

- 1) No one present is sick or has any reason to think they have been exposed to COVID-19,
- 2) Shared surfaces are disinfected before and after the meeting,
- 3) Everyone is encouraged to wash their hands thoroughly upon arrival and upon returning to their home (or have disinfecting spray, or hand sanitizer at the door), and
- 4) Food and drink are served individually.
- 5) If you choose to meet with families to watch the service on Sunday mornings, consider smaller “clusters” of groups for larger Life Groups (i.e. as a rule of thumb, less than 18 people, kids included, per household)

Here is an excerpt of the article from Andy Crouch:

LOVE IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

What decisions do we need to make?

Anyone, anywhere in the Canada, who has responsibility for any group of people needs to change the way those groups gather, immediately. The steps required would have been unthinkable even a few weeks ago. Now they are essential if we are to protect those vulnerable to COVID-19 and the health system that will need to care for them. My summary recommendations are:

Small groups can continue to meet and work together. But we must make significant modifications to the way we interact with one another in our homes and workplaces.

Many of our groups need to continue meeting in some form. These groups are essential for people’s spiritual, emotional, and in the deepest sense bodily health. This is true above all of worship. “Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Heb. 10:24–25). The author of these words, who lived in a world that knew the danger of plagues very well (though not the exact mechanism), who urged his congregation to meet even when they expected an imminent Day of Judgment, would hardly have said that we ought to stop meeting for worship under the conditions of an infectious disease.

It has never been more important to gather in small groups.

Close Christian fellowship — gathering with others who know us by name, who are our neighboring brothers and sisters in Christ, to study God’s Word, break bread, and pray together — is not an optional extra for Christians, but the very source of our life and flourishing in Christ. It is not good for people to be alone.

Furthermore, much of the best work is done in small teams. It is appropriate that large businesses, especially those with large offices, are shifting to work-from-home policies. But small businesses and organizations do not pose the same level of risk as a large, unmanaged office building. Even those who could work from home need collaboration and community.

My informed judgment is that, *provided no one is sick, and no one has reason to believe they have been exposed to COVID-19 and are within the 14-day window of potential infectious transmission, there is no strong epidemiological reason not to meet together for fellowship, encouragement, shared work, and celebration and recreation — as long as we dramatically change the way we interact with one another.*

So, Gateway Life Group leaders, please feel free to reach out to your group members and discuss ways in which you can gather together in the days and weeks ahead. Also, please take the 5 provisions into consideration as you meet. We are grateful to God for you.

In Christ and for his sake,
Pastor Adam and Pastor Justin

