

LifeGroup Discussion Guide

The following is a guide to help structure your time as a group together. Group time is made up of 4 elements: Catching Up On Life, Daily Habits Check-in, Teaching Discussion, and Engage the Heart. You **do not** have to cover **all 4** elements each week, the goal is to cover all 4 of them *over time*.

Catch Up On Life

As a church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10,15).

Suggested time: 10-20 minutes

- How are you doing? Do you have any practical needs?
- What can you thank God for this week?
- When were you most aware of Jesus' presence this week?
- When were you least aware of Jesus' presence this week?

Daily Habits Check-in

God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, show us our sin, and strengthen us as we follow Him (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12, and James 1:22-25).

Suggested Time: 10-20 minutes

- How are you abiding with Jesus (Bible reading and prayer) this week?
- What does it look like for you to grow more in abiding with Jesus in this new season?
- What has Jesus been teaching you through these practices?

Teaching Discussion

God uses the Scriptures to reveal Himself to us, equip us to live the good life he's designed for us, expose our sin, and strengthen us as we follow Him. Additionally, we want to make sure that we aren't just hearing teaching from the Scriptures on Sundays, but also applying it to our lives throughout the week." (Matthew 7:24-27, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25)

Suggested Time: 20-40 minutes

Leaders, please read this note from Teaching Team out loud:

The goal of discussion during this series is not to publicize or argue for our personal political perspective, but to allow the Scriptures to inform and where necessary, reshape our understanding and our approach to politics. As we discuss these questions let's not forget Jesus died on the cross for us to be adopted into God's family and we are brothers and sisters to one another. That is both our starting point and our conclusion for discussion each week. Let's all pray that God will form us into faithful followers of Jesus who represent Him well in the way we approach politics.

- Read Mark 12:17. Are there any aspects of your life, political or otherwise, that you are not treating as if they are "God's"?
- In what ways does your allegiance to Jesus cause a break from your party of choice?
- In the sermon, these five questions were asked:
 - Do you find it hard to criticize your platform of choice?
 - Are you able to speak *well* of the *other* party?
 - Do you evangelize for your party more than you do for your faith?
 - Do you jump to your candidate's defense anytime they're criticized?
 - Do you have more in common with those who share your politics, than those who share your faith?

Did any of these expose anything in you? What was it?

- How can we, as followers of Jesus, discuss political topics helpfully in the time leading up to the 2020 presidential election?

Engage the Heart

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)

Suggested Time: 20-40 minutes

- What sin do you need to confess to God? What are you struggling to trust Jesus with this week? How can you give Him control of it?
- Has the Holy Spirit been prompting you to do anything that you've been resisting? What step(s) do you need to take to walk in obedience?
- What is God doing in your life and heart in light of the current situation and circumstances?

Pray

Close your time together by praying for one another

- Pray for the Spirit to work in you as you take steps of repentance
- Pray for God to meet the needs of those in your group
- Pray for the sick and vulnerable