

FALL 2025
GM LIFE GROUP CURRICULUM
BASED ON THE SERMON SERIES



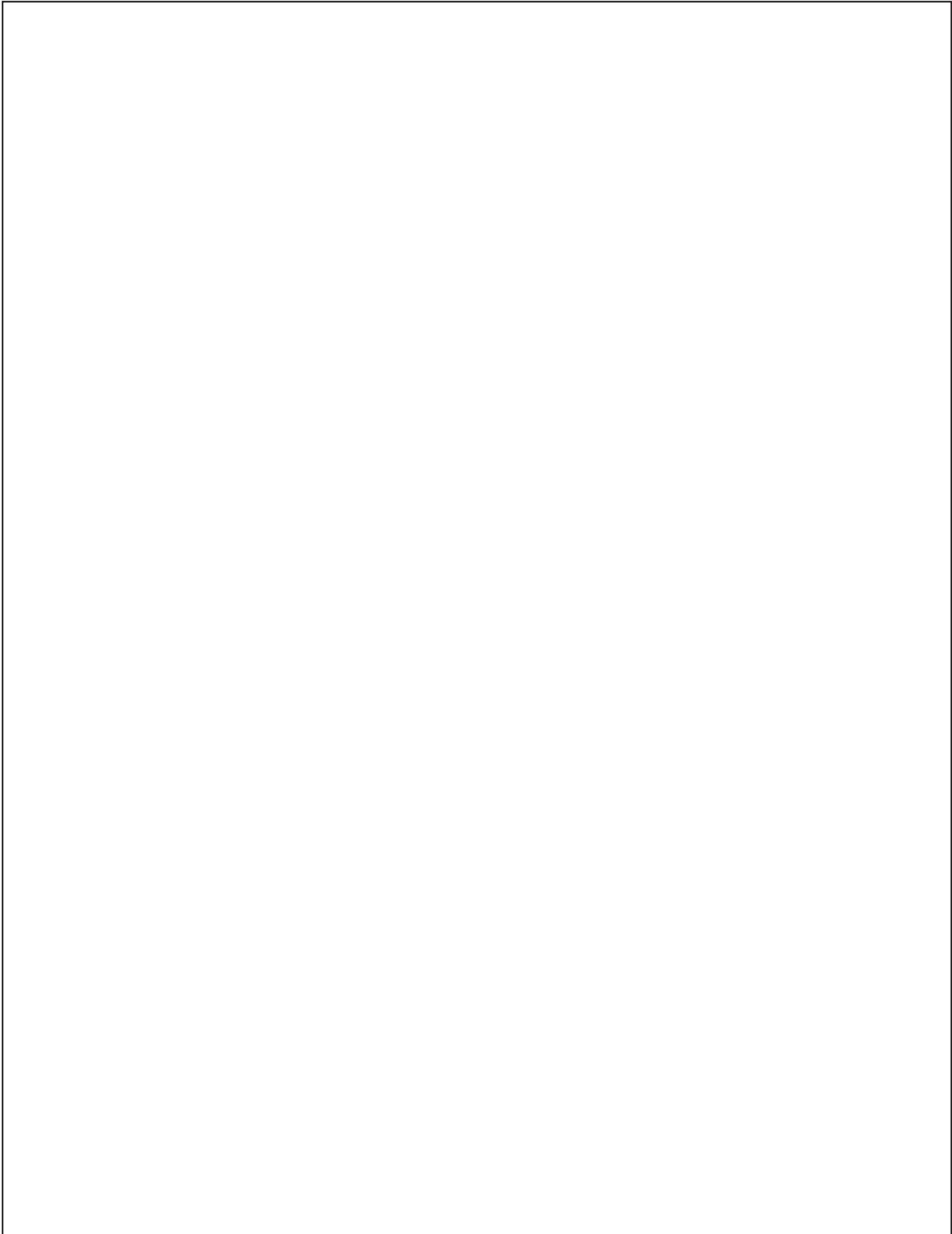
IDENTITY

GROUNDED AND GROWING

Who We Are
What We Believe
What We Do

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CONTENTS | OVERVIEW



Genesis 1:26-2:9

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth." ²⁹ God also said, "Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you, ³⁰ for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth—everything having the breath of life in it—I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.

2 So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. ² On the seventh day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it he rested from all his work of creation.

⁴ These are the records of the heavens and the earth, concerning their creation. At the time that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵ no shrub of the field had yet grown on the land, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the Lord God had not made it rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground. ⁶ But mist would come up from the earth and water all the ground. ⁷ Then the Lord God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.

⁸ The Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he placed the man he had formed. ⁹ The Lord God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by
welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit
into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why
we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy
boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage
for trust, transparency
and relationships

TOPIC

Discussing God's
Word together

QUESTIONS

Applying what we have
learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to worship God, focus on
His mission, confess, and
present any requests to Him

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group
the following week by
assigning them one
of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to
resolving conflict biblically
according to Matthew 18

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____



LET'S GET STARTED...

H
.....

God is eternal, having no beginning and no end. He needs nothing, yet He chose to create the universe and human beings. In six days, God created the cosmos from absolutely nothing by merely speaking it into existence. The sun, moon, planets, stars, mountains, oceans, animals, plants, and everything in between. God made all these things special, saying they were good. Then He created man from the dust of the earth. Unlike any of His created things, God chose to create man in His own image. He created both man and woman with a specific purpose, to bring glory to His name.

It is very difficult for our finite minds to imagine what it must have been like before creation. The fact God created everything out of nothing with just His breath is one of the many things that makes God so amazing. In an interview Lee Strobel had when writing the book, *The Case for Faith*, biochemist Michael Behe said that the mathematical odds of as-sembling a living organism are astronomical. They would be the same as a "blindfolded man finding one marked grain of sand somewhere in the vastness of the Sahara Desert, not just once, but three different times." In other words, what seems impossible for man, is possible with God. The world has tried to convince us that we evolved from monkeys; however, the Bible tells us that on the same day He created all the ani-mals, God created man and woman separately in His image to have do-minion over all living things. He created us with more than personality, emotions, free will, and intelligent minds; He created us with an inner spiritual nature that allows us to know and worship Him. It's insulting to think of ourselves as evolving from an animal when God clearly made us far more extraordinary and advanced than all the animals.



As you are listening today, think of ways you reflect the image of God.

TELL THE STORY: _____

TELL THE STORY



READ THE STORY



Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story. Then read it aloud together in your group.

GENESIS 1:26 - 2:9 | GOD'S CREATION OF MAN

KEY VERSE

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.

PRAYER Pattern

PRAISE

Focus on praise and reverence, beginning with God's character

RESPOND

Responding to the Holy Spirit through repentance

Ask

Praying about resources and relationship issues of life

YIELD

Being ready to do the work that God has prepared us to do

For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



According to this passage, what sets humans apart from the rest of God's creation?



What are some ways that you personally resemble/reflect the image of God, bringing glory to Him?

What does this passage say about the value of God's plan for you individually?



Think of ways you can better represent the image of God and put them into practice this week.



CLOSING PRAYER: _____

Use the guide in the left column as you PRAY through the PRAYER Pattern.

NOTES: _____

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP AND ASSIGN ROLES FOR NEXT WEEK

Genesis 3:1-24

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?"

² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. ³ But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.'"

⁴ "No! You will certainly not die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ So the Lord God called out to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

¹⁰ And he said, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid."

¹¹ Then he asked, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹² The man replied, "The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate."

¹³ So the Lord God asked the woman, "What have you done?"

And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ So the Lord God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you are cursed more than any livestock and more than any wild animal. You will move on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.

¹⁶ He said to the woman: I will intensify your labor pains; you will bear children with painful effort. Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will rule over you.

¹⁷ And he said to the man, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'Do not eat from it': The ground is cursed because of you. You will eat from it by means of painful labor all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ You will eat bread by the

sweat of your brow until you return to the ground, since you were taken from it. For you are dust, and you will return to dust.”²⁰ The man named his wife Eve because she was the mother of all the living.²¹ The Lord God made clothing from skins for the man and his wife, and he clothed them.

²² The Lord God said, “Since the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil, he must not reach out, take from the tree of life, eat, and live forever.”²³ So the Lord God sent him away from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.²⁴ He drove the man out and stationed the cherubim and the flaming, whirling sword east of the garden of Eden to guard the way to the tree of life.

COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

QUESTIONS

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to worship God, focus on His mission, confess, and present any requests to Him

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

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NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to Matthew 18

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

20
MIN

LET'S GET STARTED...

In Genesis 1 and 2, God created everything in the heavens and the earth. The Lord created man in His image and put him in the Garden of Eden to rule over all animals and take care of all seed-bearing plants and fruit-bearing trees. However, the Lord gave Adam a specific command: "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." God did not tell Adam this because the tree was poisonous but because it would make Adam aware that obedience to God equaled life and disobedience led to death.

Genesis 3 is the pivotal point in Scripture that helps us understand the entire story of the Bible. Without the events in this chapter, the Bible would be moot. Today's story sets the stage for the temptations we face and our need for a Savior. We saw last week that God created a perfect sinless world, and He planned everything and everyone to live in harmony and walk with Him in worship. But when God's Word is ignored and we become selfish, living by our own rules, His original design is distorted. We become separated from Him, which is called sin. Romans 3:23 says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," and Romans 6:23 tells us that, "the wages of sin is death." From this we know that God could never overlook sin because it must be punished by death. But that is not the end of the story. God, in His mercy, has created a way out of this eternal death. Today's story is the first time we see God's just character as well as His love and mercy. His plan all along is to save us from our sin, sending His Son to rescue us from ourselves because we cannot be our own saviors. He is not only a righteous judge but a loving Father who brings us into eternity with Him if we confess Jesus is Lord and God raised Him from the dead.

As you are listening, be thinking of how this story deepens your understanding of sin's impact on your relationship with God.

TELL THE STORY: _____

TELL THE STORY



READ THE STORY



10
MIN

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story. Then read it aloud together in your group.

GENESIS 3:1-24 | THE FALL OF MAN

KEY VERSE

1 Corinthians 15:20

For as in Adam all die,
so in Christ all will be
made alive.

PRAYER Pattern

PRAISE

Focus on praise
and reverence,
beginning with
God's character

RESPOND

Responding to
the Holy Spirit
through repentance

ASK

Praying about
resources and
relationship
issues of life

YIELD

Being ready to
do the work that
God has prepared
us to do

For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



What tactic did the serpent use to lure Adam and Eve into sin and how do we see this same tactic used today?

How did God punish Adam and Eve?



How does this story deepen your understanding of sin's impact on your relationship with God?

How does your disobedience to God affect those around you?

What does vs. 21 tell us about God?



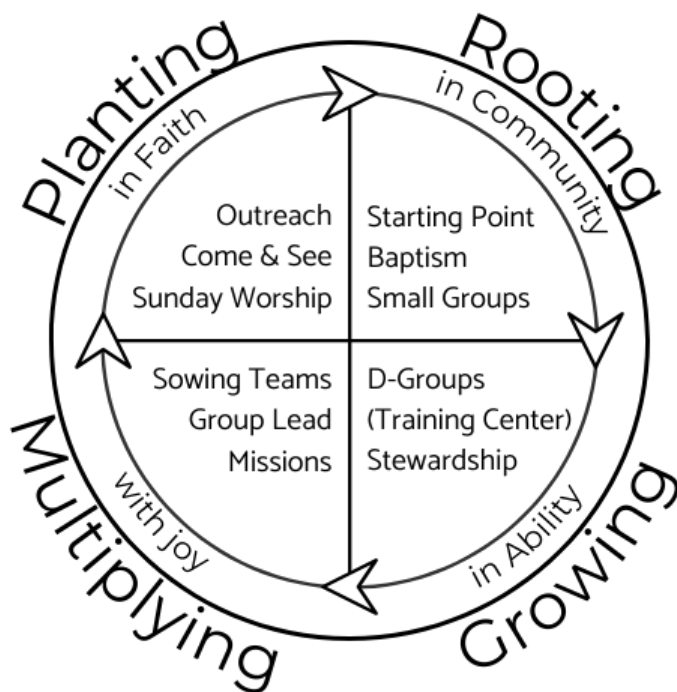
How does this story fit into the gospel presentation and how can you share it with someone this week?

CLOSING PRAYER: _____

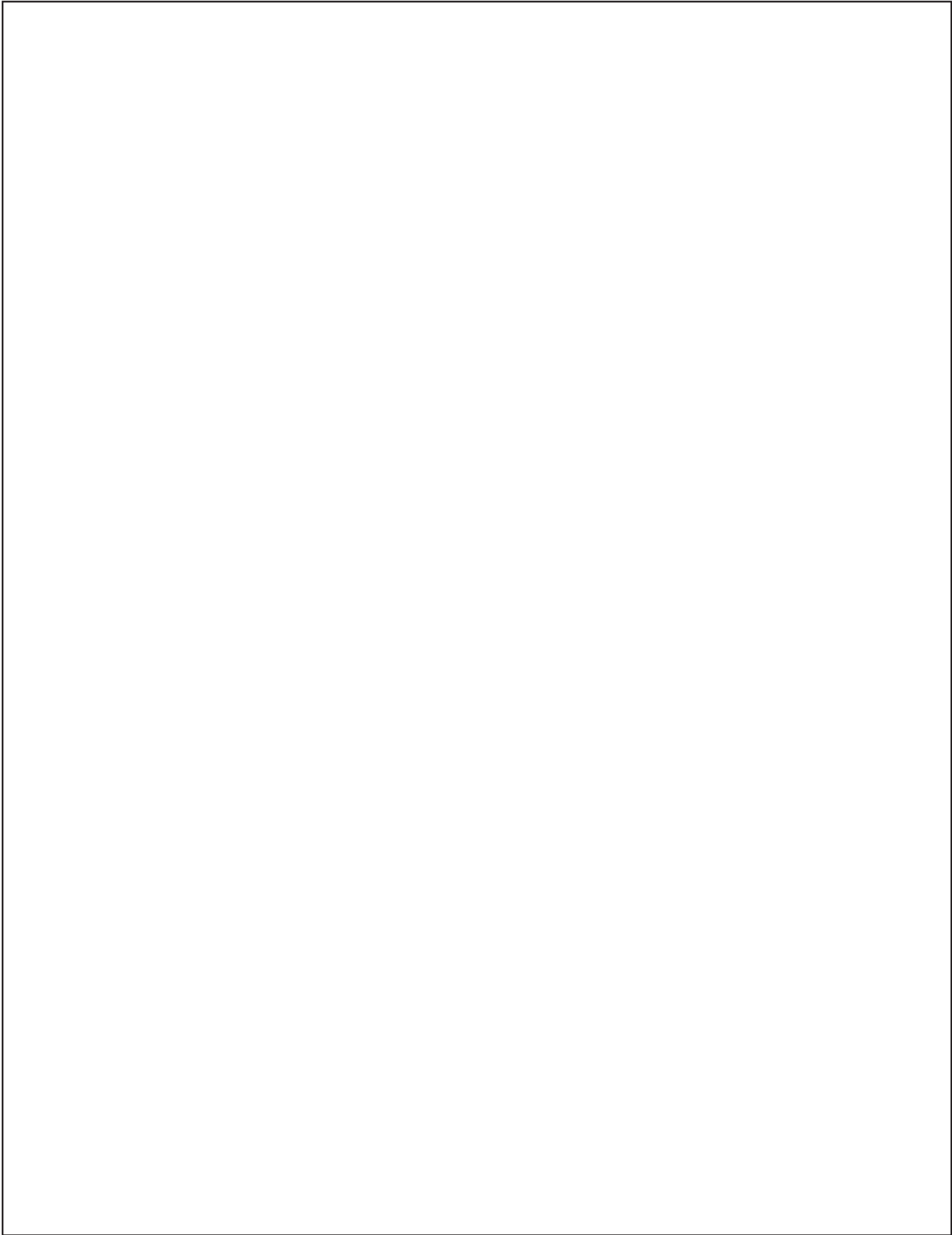
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NOTES: _____

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP AND ASSIGN ROLES FOR NEXT WEEK



John 3:1-21

There was a man from the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to him at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could perform these signs you do unless God were with him."

³ Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

⁴ "How can anyone be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked him. "Can he enter his mother's womb a second time and be born?"

⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again. ⁸ The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

⁹ "How can these things be?" asked Nicodemus.

¹⁰ "Are you a teacher of Israel and don't know these things?" Jesus replied. ¹¹ "Truly I tell you, we speak what we know and we testify to what we have seen, but you do not accept our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you don't believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven –the Son of Man.

¹⁴ "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Anyone who believes in him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God. ¹⁹ This is the judgment: The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does evil hates the light and avoids it, so that his deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But anyone who lives by the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be shown to be accomplished by God."

WHO WE ARE: BORN AGAIN TO BE MADE NEW

COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

QUESTIONS

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to worship God, focus on His mission, confess, and present any requests to Him

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to Matthew 18

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____



LET'S GET STARTED...

Jesus' ministry years were spent teaching, performing miracles, and ministering to people as He traveled throughout Israel. Nicodemus was a pharisee, a religious leader and teacher, from Jerusalem who lived by the strictest rules to keep the law of Moses. Nicodemus witnessed many of Jesus' miracles and was sincerely interested to know more about Him and His teachings. The Pharisees often focused on strict adherence to the Law and ritual purity; however, Jesus displayed the loving and merciful side of the Father, which was very attractive to many Jews and Gentiles alike. People were seeing the humanity of Jesus as He laid the foundation of how He wants us to live our daily lives.

When a child is born, they will naturally take on the characteristics of their parents. When a child is adopted and raised by someone other than their biological parents, they begin to inherit the nature of their adoptive families. This is also true of becoming a believer because you are adopted and grafted into the family of God. When we decide to serve Jesus as our Lord and our Savior, we inherit God's divine nature. 1 Peter 1:3 says, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of His great mercy, He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."* And 1 Corinthians 5:17, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."* Once we are in Christ, it doesn't matter what we did in the past, we are now created new! This is good news for all who hear it.

As you are listening to today's story, be thinking of how this passage impacts you personally.



TELL THE STORY: _____

TELL THE STORY



READ THE STORY



Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story. Then read it aloud together in your group.



JOHN 3:1-21 | JESUS AND NICODEMUS

KEY VERSE

John 3:16-17

For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

PRAYEr Pattern

PRAISE

Focus on praise and reverence, beginning with God's character

RESPOND

Responding to the Holy Spirit through repentance

ASK

Praying about resources and relationship issues of life

YIELD

Being ready to do the work that God has prepared us to do

For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



What does it mean to be "born again"?

According to vs. 17, why did God send His Son, Jesus?



What is the difference in knowing Jesus through salvation and just knowing *about* Jesus?

Reread vs. 16-21, and discuss how this portion of Scripture personally impacts you.



How can you use this passage to share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ with someone this week?

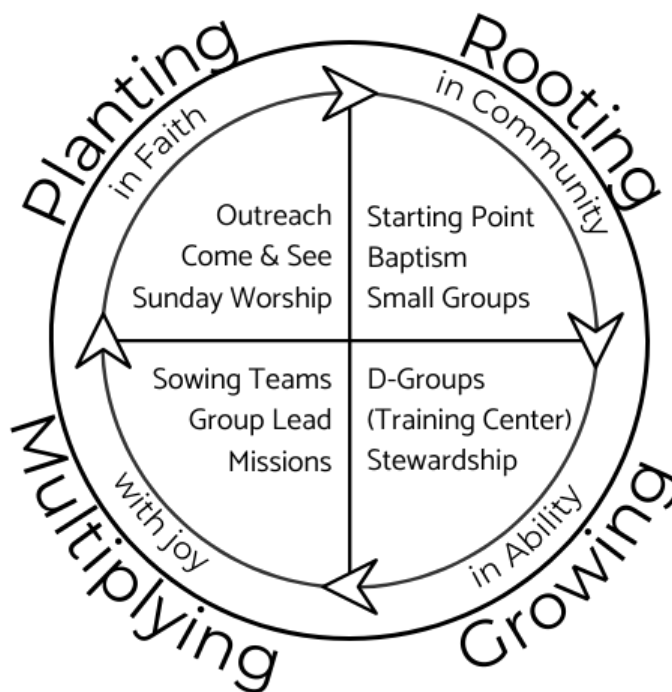
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CLOSING PRAYER: _____

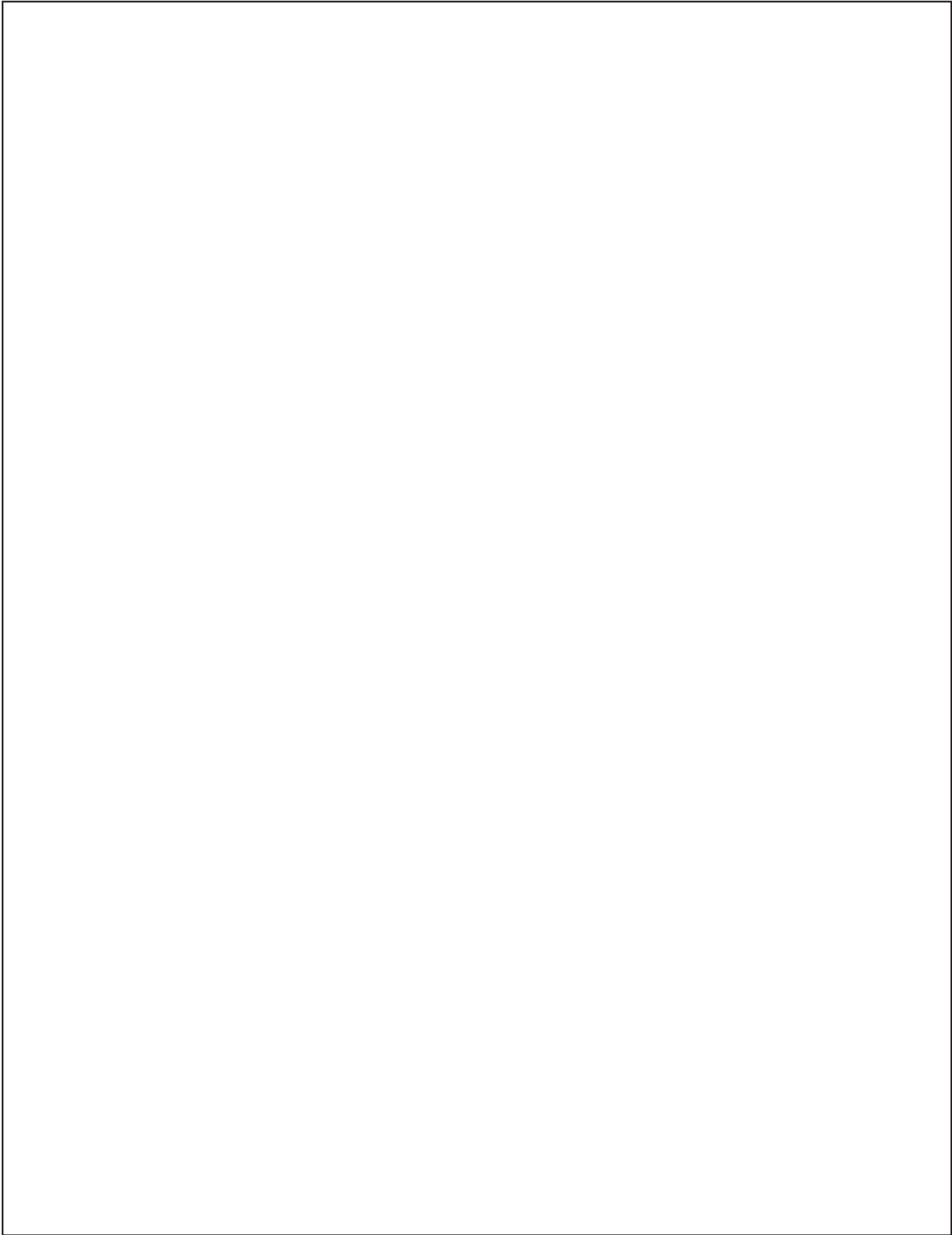
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NOTES: _____

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP AND ASSIGN ROLES FOR NEXT WEEK



2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

WHAT WE BELIEVE: CAN I TRUST MY BIBLE

COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

QUESTIONS

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to worship God, focus on His mission, confess, and present any requests to Him

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to Matthew 18

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

20
MIN

LET'S GET STARTED...

The Bible is the inspired Word of God. Its composition spans over 1,600 years and is made up of 66 different books. It was written in three different languages (Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic) by 40 different authors (kings, prophets, leaders, and followers of Jesus). Prior to the printing press, special scribes copied the manuscripts of the Bible by hand, word for word, to ensure there were no errors. The scribes would ceremonially wash their hands each time before picking up a special pen specifically used to write the name of Yahweh God, then they would set the pen down, wash again, and use a regular pen to continue. If a king walked into the room while the scribe was writing the name of God, the scribe could not look up and acknowledge the king until he finished. To date, the Bible has sold over five billion copies worldwide, making it the most-sold book of all time; however, it is the least-read book. God's Word has been translated into over 2,000 different languages, including over 300 English translations. Yet still, there are over 2,000 people groups with no Bible in their language.

2
MIN

At Glen Meadows, we believe that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant, and authoritative Word of God revealed to humans. It was written to all people of all nations and by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the ultimate and final authority for Christian beliefs. Because it is inspired by God, it is truth without error.

As you are listening today, think of how the Bible has personally changed your life.

TELL THE STORY: _____

TELL THE STORY



READ THE STORY



10
MIN

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story. Then read it aloud together in your group.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 | THE WORD OF GOD

KEY VERSE

Romans 15:4

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

PRAYER Pattern

PRAISE

Focus on praise and reverence, beginning with God's character

RESPOND

Responding to the Holy Spirit through repentance

ASK

Praying about resources and relationship issues of life

YIELD

Being ready to do the work that God has prepared us to do

For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



What does this passage say about scripture?

What is scripture useful for?



Using vs. 16 as a reference, how has the Bible personally changed your life?

How would you encourage a younger Christian to spend more time reading the Bible?



This week, create a plan to intentionally read through the Bible, whether it will take you a few months or a few years.

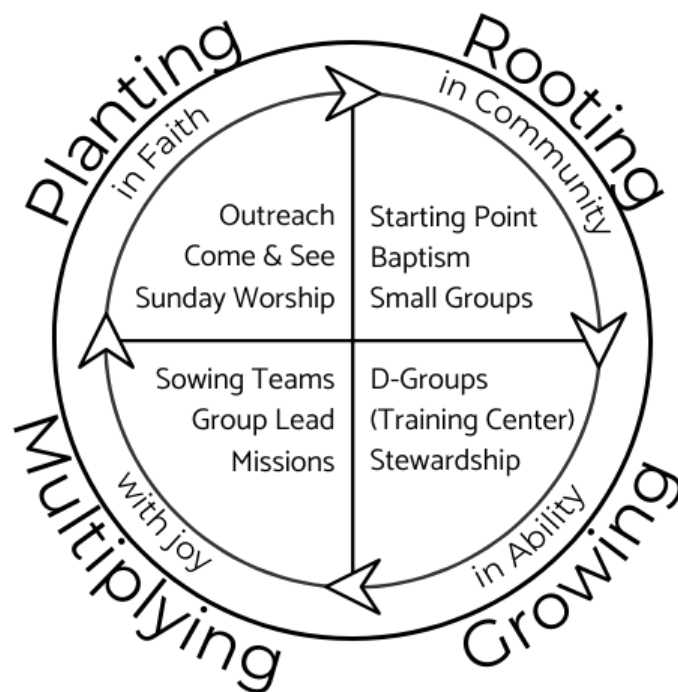


CLOSING PRAYER: _____

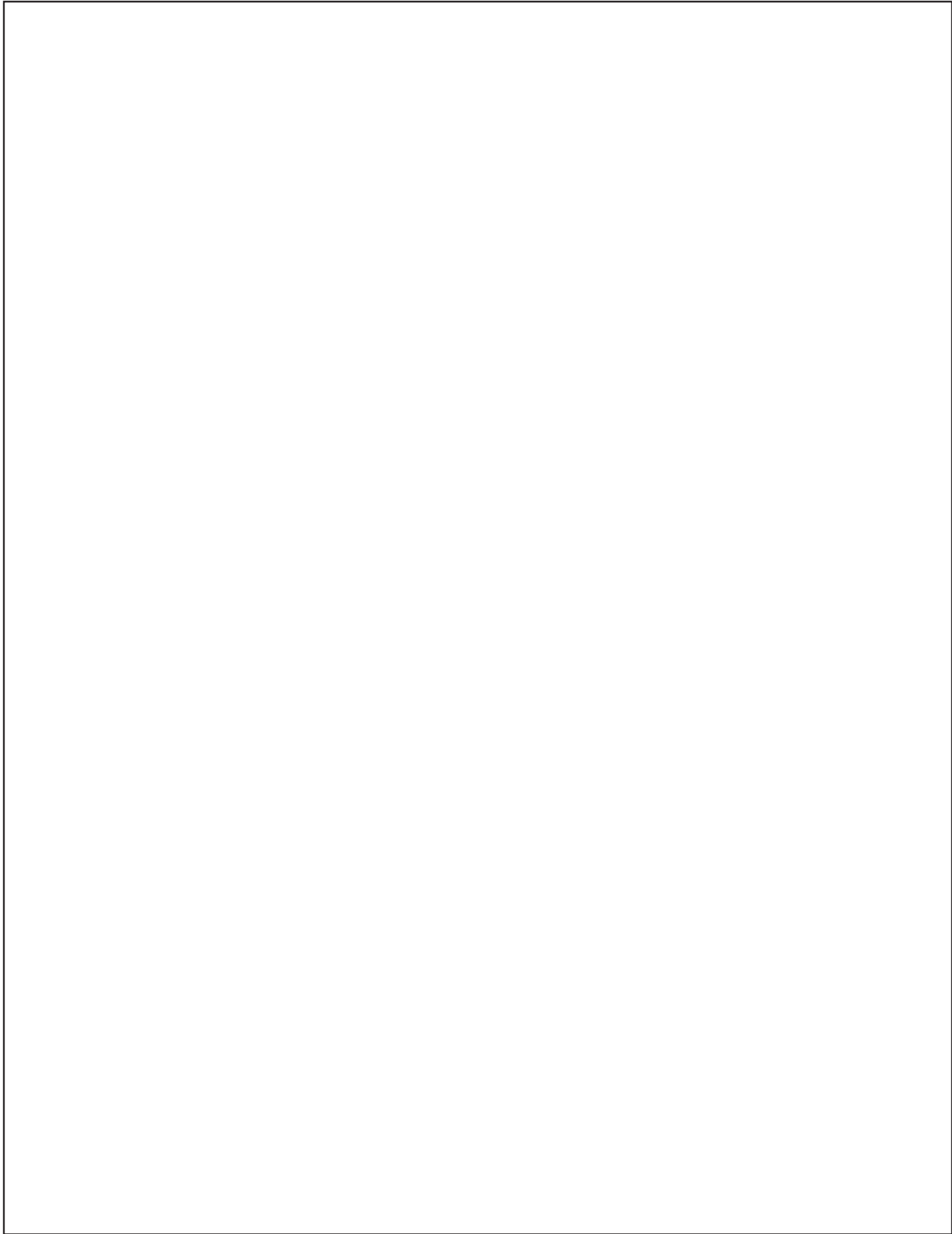
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NOTES: _____

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP AND ASSIGN ROLES FOR NEXT WEEK



Exodus 34:5-7

The Lord came down in a cloud, stood with him there, and proclaimed his name, "the Lord."

⁶ The Lord passed in front of him and proclaimed:

The Lord—the Lord is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth, ⁷ maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But he will not leave the guilty unpunished, bringing the consequences of the fathers' iniquity on the children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generation.

COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

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ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to Matthew 18

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____



LET'S GET STARTED...

H..... God put Moses in a position to set the Israelites free from the Egyptians who had enslaved His people for over 400 years. After rescuing them from slavery, God led them by fire and smoke through the desert, parting the Red Sea, sending quail and manna from heaven for them to eat, and performing miracles, yet the people still grumbled. God invited Moses to the top of a mountain for 40 days where He gave him the Ten Commandments. Meanwhile, the people got tired of waiting, so they asked Aaron to make gods for them that would lead them out of the wilderness. Aaron gathered all the people's gold jewelry and fashioned it into the image of a calf. Then the people worshiped the idol and celebrated. The Lord became angry, wanting to destroy the people, but Moses pleaded on their behalf, reminding God of His promise to Abraham that his offspring would inherit the land forever. So God relented. When Moses went down from the mountain, he was enraged to see the people out of control and worshiping the golden calf. Because of his anger, he threw the tablets with the Ten Commandments, shattering them. After he rebuked the people, Moses went back up the mountain to try and atone for their sin. After Moses asked God to show him His glory (an amazing story for another time), God spoke to Moses the words of today's passage.



U What you think about God is the most important thing about you; therefore, it is important to have an accurate view of who God is. At Glen Meadows, we believe that there is one true God who exists in three persons – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. He is self-existent, and by nature He is eternal, all-knowing, all-powerful, and everywhere at once. ,

As you are listening today, be thinking of how your view of God lines up with who He says He is.

TELL THE STORY: _____

TELL THE STORY



READ THE STORY



Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story. Then read it aloud together in your group.

EXODUS 34:5-7 | THE LORD'S PROCLAMATION

KEY VERSE

Exodus 34:6b

the Lord is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth

PRAYER Pattern

PRAISE

Focus on praise and reverence, beginning with God's character

RESPOND

Responding to the Holy Spirit through repentance

Ask

Praying about resources and relationship issues of life

YIELD

Being ready to do the work that God has prepared us to do

For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



What are some characteristics of God displayed in this passage?

What are some of God's characteristics you have come to know by experience?



Which of God's attributes would you like to experience more fully?



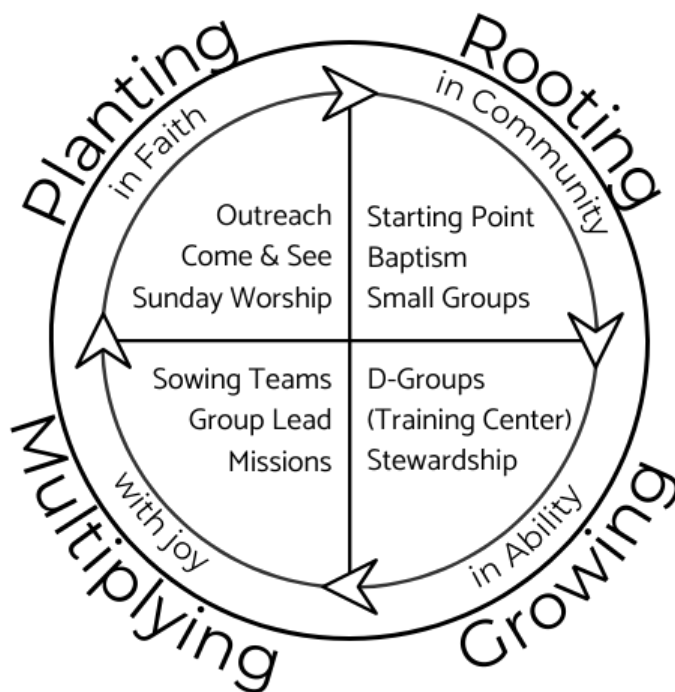
How can you encourage someone in your life with today's passage?

CLOSING PRAYER: _____

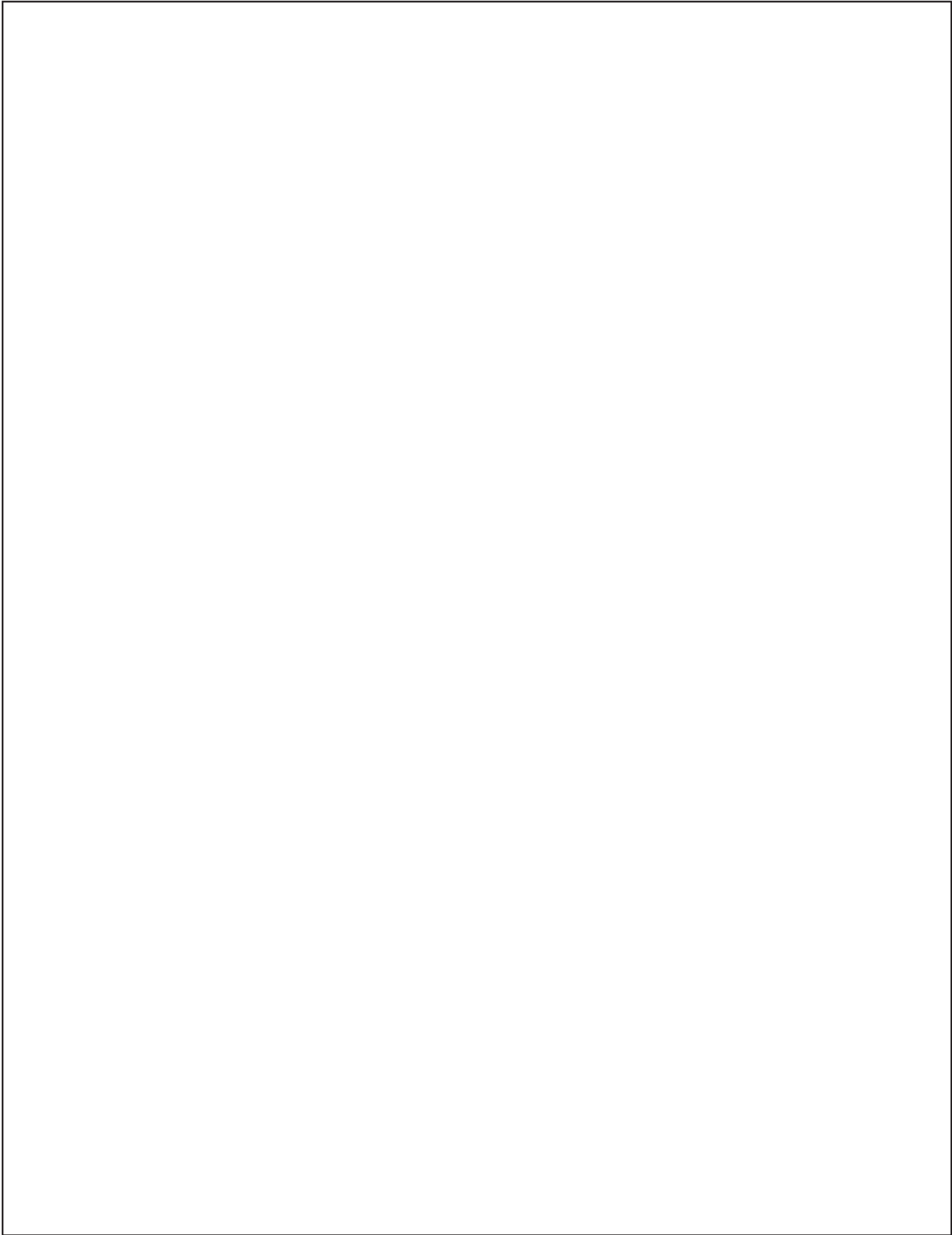
Use the guide in the left column as you PRAY through the PRAYER Pattern.

NOTES: _____

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP AND ASSIGN ROLES FOR NEXT WEEK



Colossians 1:14-20

¹⁴ In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins:

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn over all creation.

¹⁶ For everything was created by Him,
in heaven and on earth,
the visible and the invisible,
whether thrones or dominions
or rulers or authorities—
all things have been created through Him and for Him.

¹⁷ He is before all things,
and by Him all things hold together.

¹⁸ He is also the head of the body, the church;
He is the beginning,
the firstborn from the dead,
so that he might come to have
first place in everything.

¹⁹ For God was pleased to have
all His fullness dwell in Him,

²⁰ and through Him to reconcile
everything to Himself,
whether things on earth or things in heaven,
by making peace
through His blood, shed on the cross.

WHAT WE BELIEVE: THERE IS NO ONE LIKE JESUS

COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

QUESTIONS

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to worship God, focus on His mission, confess, and present any requests to Him

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to Matthew 18

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

20
MIN

LET'S GET STARTED...

There were many misconceptions about Christ in the Colossian church that Paul discredited. One misconception was that matter was evil, so God Himself would not come to earth in bodily form. Paul refuted this by reminding the church that Christ is the exact likeness of God; therefore, He is God, who came to earth and died on a cross as a man. Another misconception claimed that God would never create evil; therefore, He did not create the world. Paul proclaimed that Jesus Christ, who is also God in the flesh, is the creator of both heaven and earth. The false teachers would also say that Christ was just a prophet, not the Son of God. Paul explained that Jesus existed before all things and was the firstborn of the resurrected. The skeptics insisted that people could only find God through special and secret knowledge. They refused to see Christ as the source of salvation and eternal life. Paul proclaimed that salvation could only be found through Christ alone. In all conversations of doubt and skepticism, Paul always brought the argument back to Jesus Christ as the eternal Son of God and the Messiah.

2
MIN

At Glen Meadows, we believe Jesus Christ is God incarnate (in the flesh), who came to all the world, offering the only solution to sin – a holy sacrifice. Today's passage may be the richest statement found anywhere in the Bible about Jesus Christ and His divine nature. In one concentrated passage, Paul describes Jesus in such a clear and concise way that it would be hard for people to say they didn't understand who Jesus was. God is pleased when His Son is honored and given all superiority. As a Christian, it is important to remember that Jesus is God. *"He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent Him."* John 5:23. We cannot have a relationship with God and deny His Son. Jesus Christ is the Savior, Creator, and Head of the church. He is God's beloved Son, and He is eternal. He deserves nothing less than our whole lives devoted to Him.

As you're listening, think of ways that Jesus is supreme in your life.

TELL THE STORY: _____

TELL THE STORY



READ THE STORY



10
MIN

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story. Then read it aloud together in your group.

COLOSSIANS 1:14-20 | THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST

KEY VERSE

Colossians 3:11b

Christ is all and in all

PRAYEr Pattern

PRAISE

Focus on praise and reverence, beginning with God's character

RESPOND

Responding to the Holy Spirit through repentance

ASK

Praying about resources and relationship issues of life

YIELD

Being ready to do the work that God has prepared us to do

For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



Based on this passage, how would you describe Jesus in one word or phrase?



Why is it important to recognize the fullness of Jesus?

How would you describe your relationship with Jesus?

How can this passage make a difference in the way you live?



This week, pray for those in your life who may know God yet need to understand the supremacy of Jesus and how He can change their lives.

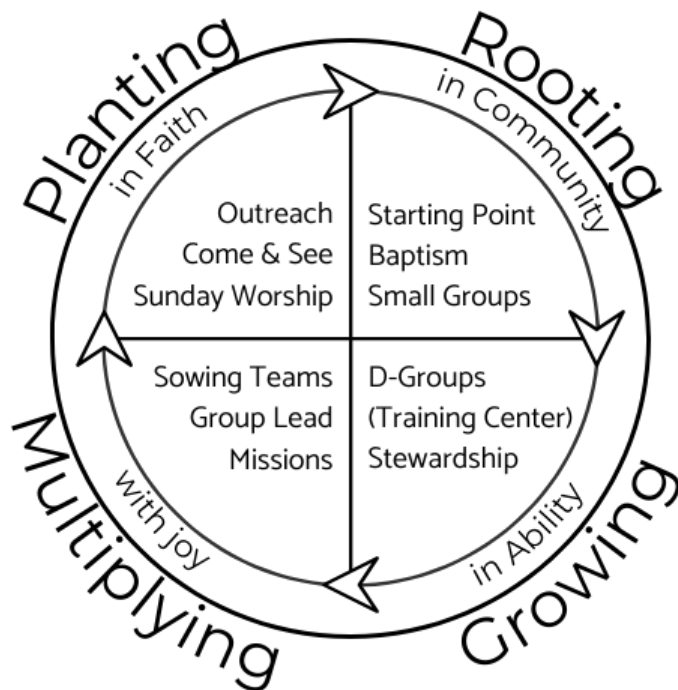
38
MIN

CLOSING PRAYER: _____

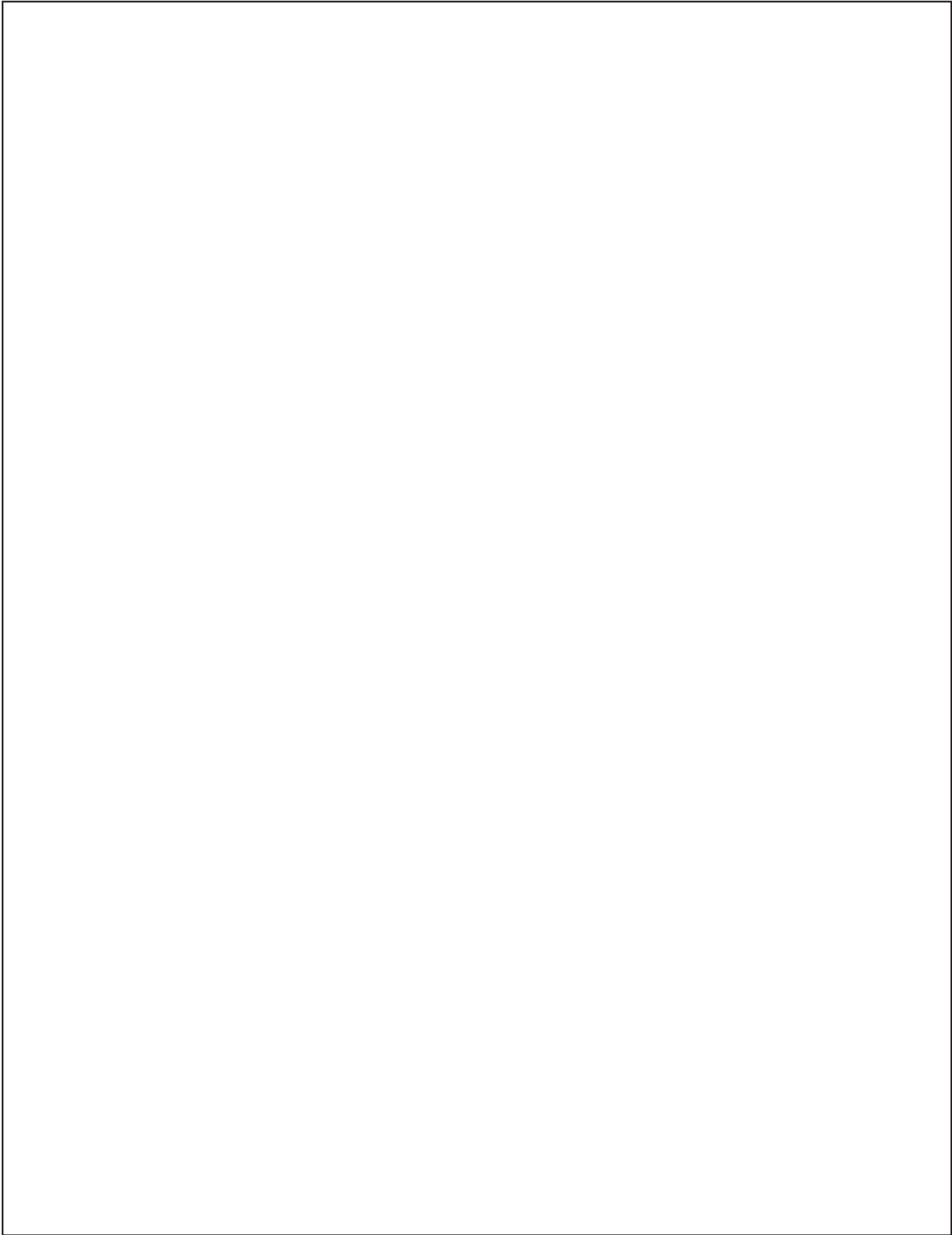
Use the guide in the left column as you PRAY through the PRAYEr Pattern.

NOTES: _____

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP AND ASSIGN ROLES FOR NEXT WEEK



John 14:15-26

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. ¹⁷ He is the Spirit of truth [the Holy Spirit]. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn't see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ The one who has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I also will love him and will reveal myself to him."

²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it you're going to reveal yourself to us and not to the world?"

²³ Jesus answered, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ The one who doesn't love me will not keep my words. The word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵ "I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you. ²⁶ But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.

COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by
welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit
into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why
we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy
boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage
for trust, transparency
and relationships

TOPIC

Discussing God's
Word together

QUESTIONS

Applying what we have
learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to worship God, focus on
His mission, confess, and
present any requests to Him

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group
the following week by
assigning them one
of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to
resolving conflict biblically
according to Matthew 18

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____



LET'S GET STARTED...

Jesus met with the disciples the night before He was betrayed for a Pass-over meal. He washed their feet and explained (for the first time) the Lord's Supper to them. He predicted Judas' betrayal and Peter's denial. He also engaged in some very key conversations with His disciples about what it would be like after He was gone. All the while, His words fell on deaf ears as the men squabbled over who was the greatest among them. The disciples expected Jesus to establish an earthly kingdom and overthrow Rome. Jesus told them, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." When Jesus told them He was going to be with the Father to prepare a place for them, the disciples were confused and questioned Him about the Father. But Jesus told them, "I am in the Father and the Father is in me". He then proceeded to tell them about the Holy Spirit.

Jesus was going to be ascending to heaven, leaving the disciples after His death, burial, and resurrection. So how could He remain with them and be in heaven at the same time? The Spirit of God would come to care for and guide the disciples after Jesus was gone. At Glen Meadows, we believe that the Holy Spirit permanently lives in every believer and provides them assurance, strength, and wisdom. He also uniquely gives each believer gifts for the building up of the Body of Christ. In the book of John, the Holy Spirit is described with these truths: He will never leave us (Jn 14:16); those of the world are unable to receive Him (Jn 14:17); He lives in and through those who know Him (Jn 14:17); He teaches us (Jn 14:26); He reminds us of Jesus' words (Jn 14:26 & 15:26); He convicts us of sin, reveals God's righteousness to us, and reminds us of God's judgment toward evil (Jn 16:8); He guides us into truth and declares what is to come (Jn 16:13); He declares Christ's glory (Jn 16:14). In Romans 8:26-27, Paul writes that the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for us. In today's passage, we will read Jesus' words about the Holy Spirit while He was still on earth.



As you're listening, be thinking about your relationship with the Holy Spirit and how your life has changed since you've accepted Christ.

TELL THE STORY: _____

TELL THE STORY



READ THE STORY



Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story. Then read it aloud together in your group.

JOHN 14:15-26 | THE HOLY SPIRIT

KEY VERSE

John 14:26

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.

PRAYER Pattern

PRAISE

Focus on praise and reverence, beginning with God's character

RESPOND

Responding to the Holy Spirit through repentance

ASK

Praying about resources and relationship issues of life

YIELD

Being ready to do the work that God has prepared us to do

For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



What is the role of the Holy Spirit?

What does it mean to keep Jesus' words?



In this season of your life, what does your relationship with the Holy Spirit look like?

Since becoming a believer, how has the Holy Spirit comforted, guided, and/or empowered you?



As you evaluate your relationship with Christ, how can your love for Him look like verses 23 & 24?

CLOSING PRAYER: _____

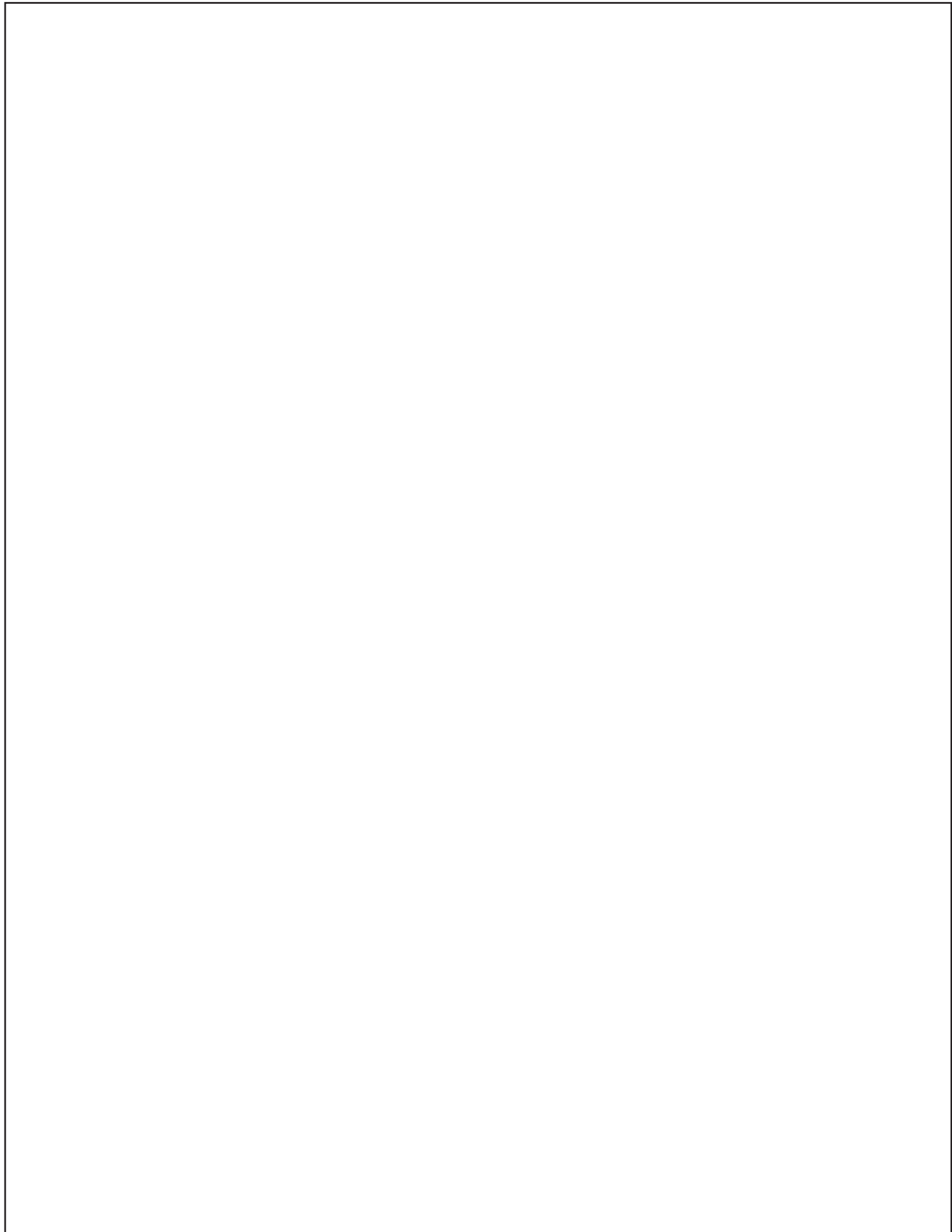
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NOTES: _____

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP AND ASSIGN ROLES FOR NEXT WEEK



Romans 8:1, 31-39

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus

³¹ What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He did not even spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything? ³³ Who can bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies. ³⁴ Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the one who died, but even more, has been raised; he also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

Because of you
we are being put to death all day long;
we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered.

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

WHAT WE BELIEVE: HOW CAN I KNOW I HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?

COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

QUESTIONS

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to worship God, focus on His mission, confess, and present any requests to Him

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to Matthew 18

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

20
MIN

LET'S GET STARTED...

Every year, hundreds of thousands of Christians are being persecuted and sometimes killed for their faith in Jesus Christ. It is estimated that 380 million Christians are now being persecuted, and in 2024, 4,476 Christians were killed for faith in Jesus ([opendoors.org](https://www.opendoors.org)). It is tragic that on the other end of the spectrum there are Christians living a comfortable faith. It seems as if they pick and choose bible verses or quotes from religious books to live by, watering down God's Word to mold it into their belief system and how they *want* to live. We should never live in such a way that we fear knowing God so intimately and are afraid to meet Him face to face once this life is over. No matter how old you are, it is always a good time to learn more about the Father by spending time in His Holy Word. He chose us, long before we chose Him, and He made us His elect. There is only one way to know if you are elect: trust Jesus as your Lord and Savior. It is that simple. From that point forward, nothing can separate you from His love.

At Glen Meadows, we believe salvation (the forgiveness of sins) is not linked to church membership, works, good deeds, heritage, or genealogy, but rather, it is through faith alone in Jesus Christ. If you have ever thought to yourself, "I have gone too far and am not good enough for God to save me," or "Salvation isn't for someone like me," today's passage is just for you! The Creator of the universe gave up His only Son, who died to save you from your sins. Therefore, He will not hold back salvation from you or condemn you; instead, He will give you what you need to live for Him and give Him glory! This doesn't mean we won't face hardships and temptations. God allows us to face painful times in various forms. Whether illness, persecution, or sometimes even death, God will never abandon us. This is such a relief knowing that when, not if, we mess up or go through a valley in life, God will be there. We must hold onto God with all we have in us so that we can fully walk the straight path and never get lost or fall.

As you are listening today, be thinking of how this passage changes the way you see your salvation.

2
MIN

TELL THE STORY: _____

TELL THE STORY



READ THE STORY



10
MIN

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story. Then read it aloud together in your group.

ROMANS 8:1, 31-39 | GOD'S EVERLASTING LOVE

KEY VERSE

Romans 8:38-39

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PRAYER Pattern

PRaise

Focus on praise and reverence, beginning with God's character

RESPOND

Responding to the Holy Spirit through repentance

Ask

Praying about resources and relationship issues of life

YIELD

Being ready to do the work that God has prepared us to do

For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



What is the message of victory in this passage?

Why is it important to understand this portion of scripture as a believer?



How does this passage affect the way you see your salvation?

What does vs. 37 - 39 mean to you personally?



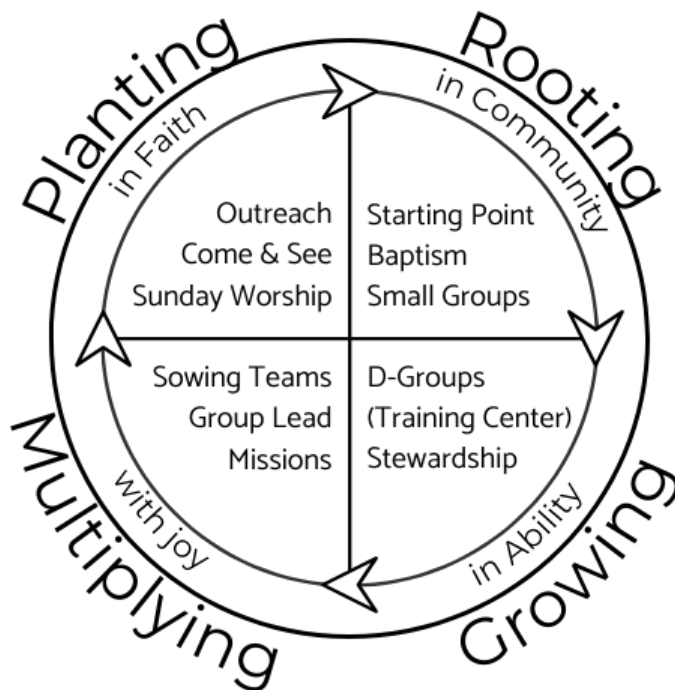
How can you use this passage to encourage someone who may be struggling this week?

CLOSING PRAYER: _____

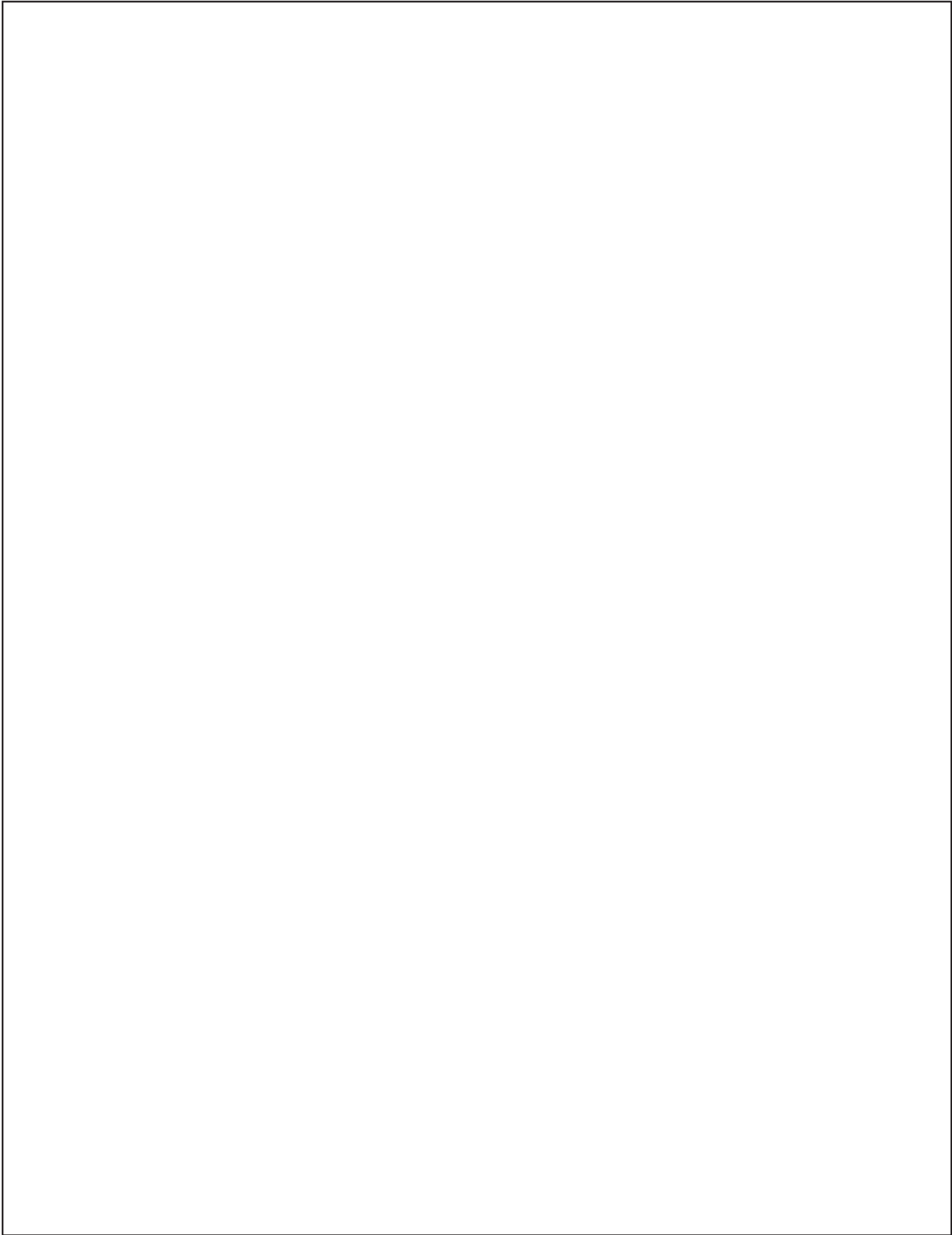
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NOTES: _____

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP AND ASSIGN ROLES FOR NEXT WEEK



Luke 17:20-21

When he was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming with something observable; ²¹ no one will say, 'See here!' or 'There!' For you see, the kingdom of God is in your midst."

WHAT WE BELIEVE: JESUS' FAVORITE TOPIC

COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

QUESTIONS

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to worship God, focus on His mission, confess, and present any requests to Him

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to Matthew 18

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____



LET'S GET STARTED...

Jesus' disciples, as well as many religious leaders, believed that when the Messiah came, He would come as a warrior with military power. They envisioned the Kingdom of God as a future, tangible restoration of the Davidic throne and Israel's political independence. Numerous Old Testament prophecies portray the Messiah as a descendant of King David, who would establish a glorious kingdom, reigning with justice and righteousness, and whose dominion would be everlasting. There was an expectation that He would overthrow the Roman rule and restore Israel's political power. Some had hoped that John the Baptist would be their deliverer, yet John prepared the way for Jesus. It was not until after Jesus' death, resurrection, and outpouring of the Holy Spirit that they were able to get a glimpse of His true mission on earth. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, they were given a clarity of Christ's teachings and understanding of Jesus' death and resurrection as a sacrifice for the sins of the world.

H.....



The Pharisees were so caught up in who they thought the Messiah should be that they were blinded from seeing who Jesus truly was. Despite all of Christ's teachings and miracles, they still looked past Him for someone else to physically save the Jewish people from Roman rule. If we are not careful, we could be guilty of the same thing. Some people claim they wish Jesus would come and finally put an end to all this chaos on earth. While we should anticipate His coming, and it will happen one day soon, there are so many lost souls that Jesus wishes to save. God's rule changes everything: our purpose, priorities, and how we live, here and now. Jesus has given us the charge to spread His good news to every corner of the earth, wishing that all would be saved and nobody would perish. He wants us to display His love, compassion, grace, and forgiveness for all to see. When we do this, we glorify the Father.

U

As you're listening, think of ways you're living your everyday life as though the Kingdom of God is here.

TELL THE STORY: _____

TELL THE STORY



→→→

READ THE STORY



Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story. Then read it aloud together in your group.

LUKE 17:20-21 | THE KINGDOM OF GOD

KEY VERSE

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

PRAYER Pattern

PRAISE

Focus on praise and reverence, beginning with God's character

RESPOND

Responding to the Holy Spirit through repentance

ASK

Praying about resources and relationship issues of life

YIELD

Being ready to do the work that God has prepared us to do

For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



What did Jesus say about the Kingdom of God?



In what ways do you see the Kingdom of God among us?

How are you living your everyday life as though the Kingdom of God is here?



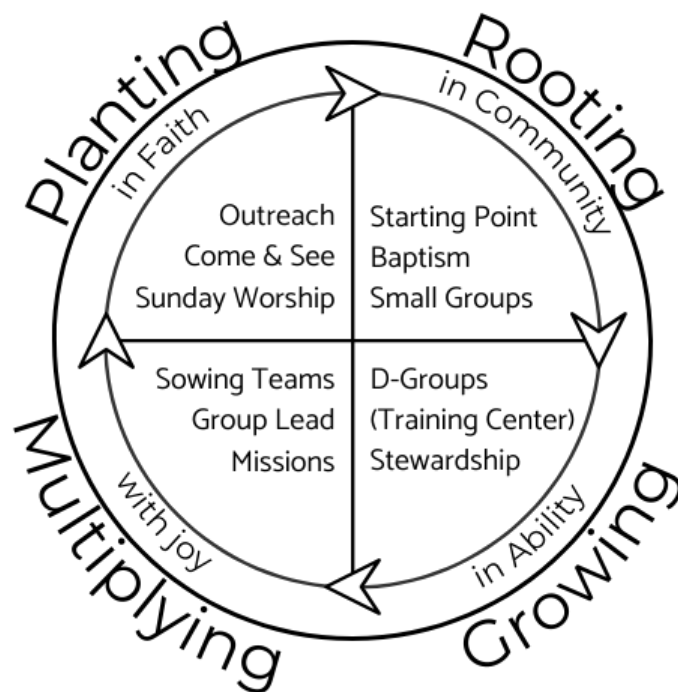
Think of one person in your life this week who doesn't know Christ as their Lord and Savior, and begin praying every day for their salvation and how God can use you as a part of their redemption story.

CLOSING PRAYER: _____

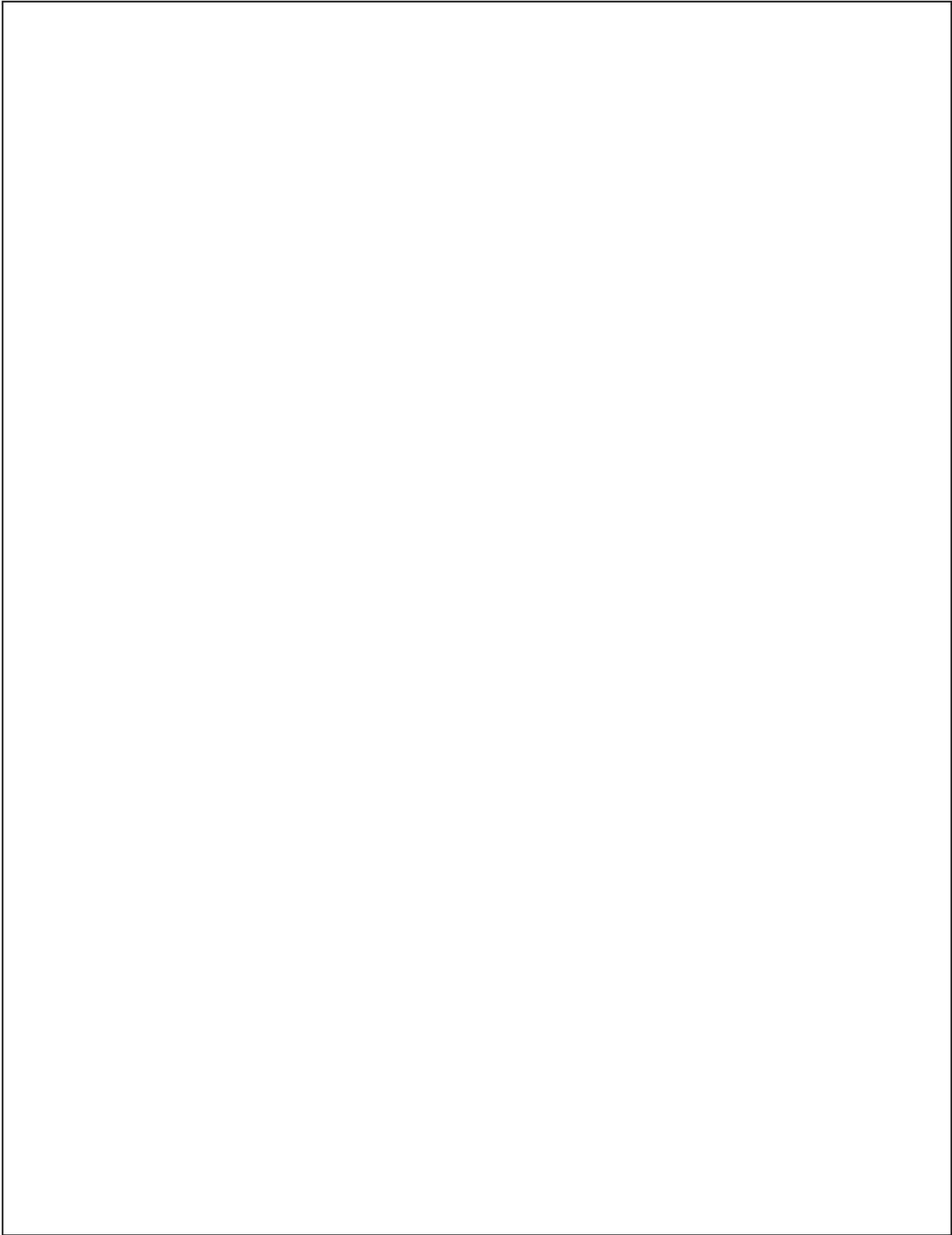
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NOTES: _____

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP AND ASSIGN ROLES FOR NEXT WEEK



Acts 2:42-47

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. ⁴⁵ They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number[a] those who were being saved.

COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

QUESTIONS

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CLOSING PRAYER

A time to worship God, focus on His mission, confess, and present any requests to Him

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to Matthew 18

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____



LET'S GET STARTED...

Jesus' last words to His disciples before He ascended to heaven were, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." On the day of Pentecost, Christ's followers carried out His words when the Holy Spirit filled them. Through Him, they were able to speak in many languages, so everyone could understand the gospel. This caused onlookers to be astounded; however, some sneered and mocked the disciples, calling them drunk. In today's story, we pick up where Peter claimed the power of the Holy Spirit to the naysayers. He placed the blame on the lawlessness of the Jews for plotting to kill Jesus, yet he more importantly emphasized the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. This event led to thousands of conversions and the start of the Church--a group of people all about community and being devoted to each other with life-changing love.

H.....



At Glen Meadows, we believe that the Church exists to reflect who God is and to bring glory to Himself. We desire to be like the early Church, outwardly focused and devoted to Jesus and each other. We deeply care about reaching our community, and standing firm on the Word of God. We are determined to play our part in fulfilling the mission of Jesus in every aspect of our lives. God never intended for us to only attend church on Easter and Christmas, nor the weekends just for our "fire insurance." God, the Creator of all things, sent His one and only Son to experience a brutal death and rise again, so we can live a full and purposeful life while glorifying Him. The early Church in Acts modeled perfectly that church is not a building; it's us. God's design was for the church body to be a family that worships, grows, serves, and reaches the world for Christ together.

U

As you are listening today, be thinking of how God is asking you to personally grow in your devotion to the mission of Christ according to this passage.

TELL THE STORY: _____

TELL THE STORY



READ THE STORY



Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story. Then read it aloud together in your group.

ACTS 2:42-47 | THE EARLY CHURCH MODEL

KEY VERSE

Acts 2:44

Now all the believers were together and held all things in common.



What are the attributes of the early church?

Which attribute sticks out to you most about how Jesus wants us to do "life together" and behave as the church body?



How is God asking you to personally grow according to this passage?

38 MIN

PRAYER Pattern

PRAISE

Focus on praise and reverence, beginning with God's character



Pray about how your Life Group can model the early Church, and discuss some practical ways you can "be the Church" together.

CLOSING PRAYER: _____

Use the guide in the left column as you PRAY through the PRAYER Pattern.

NOTES: _____

RESPOND

Responding to the Holy Spirit through repentance

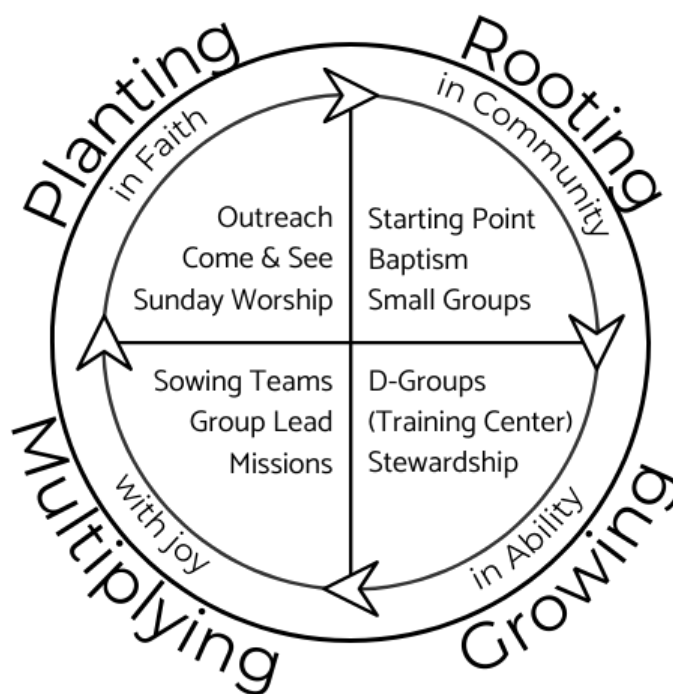
ASK

Praying about resources and relationship issues of life

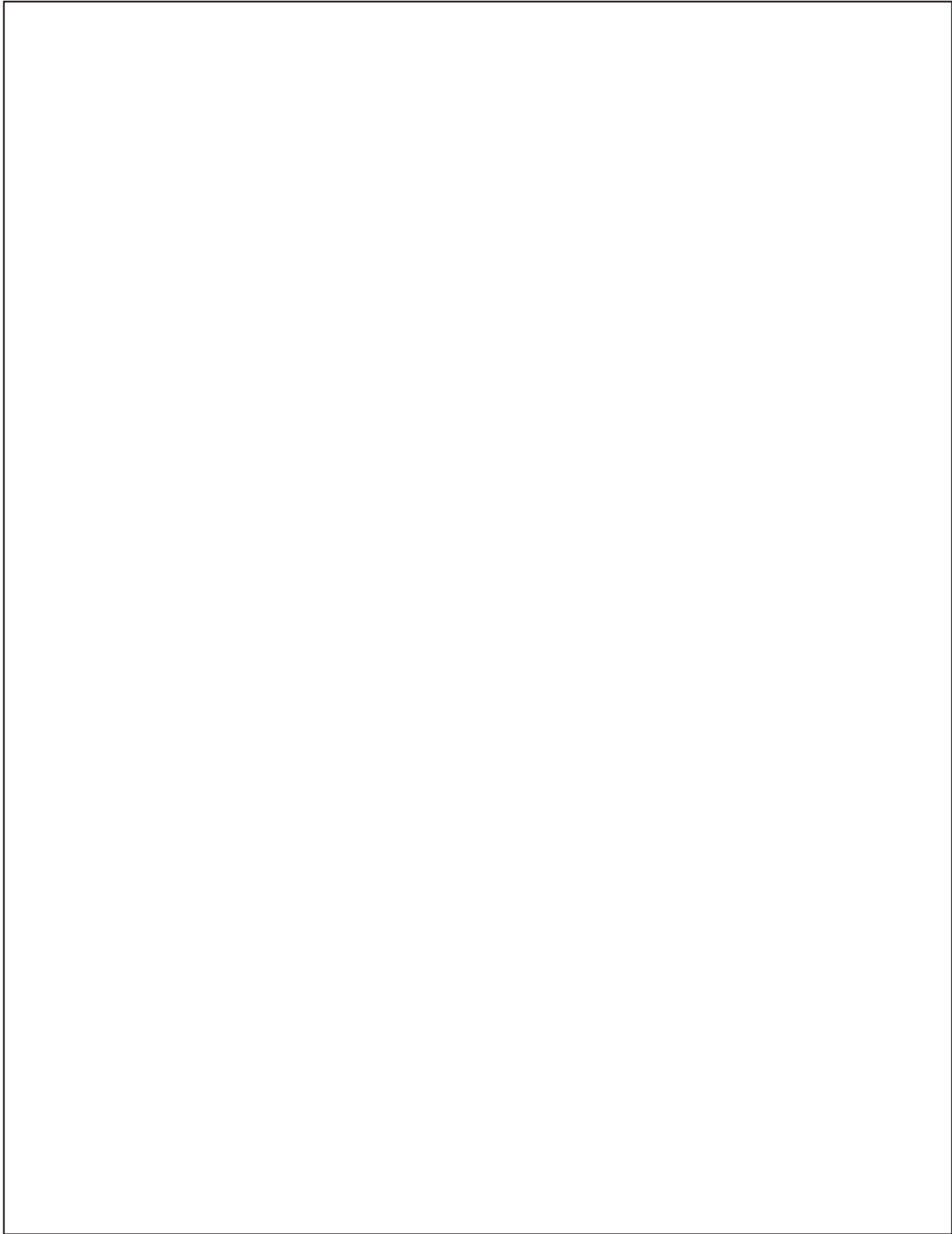
YIELD

Being ready to do the work that God has prepared us to do

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP AND ASSIGN ROLES FOR NEXT WEEK



Revelation 21:1-5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.

³ Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away.

⁵ Then the one seated on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new." He also said, "Write, because these words are faithful and true."

COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

QUESTIONS

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to worship God, focus on His mission, confess, and present any requests to Him

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to Matthew 18

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____



LET'S GET STARTED...

H..... The Bible began with the majestic yet incomprehensible story of God's creation of the universe and everything in it. He prepared the earth for the first man and woman and all of their descendants. He created the garden perfect for them and placed them in it to dwell in, tend to, and rule over. Sadly, our very first parents on earth, Adam and Eve, sinned, which introduced death and decay into the perfect world God created. Since the fall of man, we have been living in a broken world. God's plan in sending His Son, Jesus, to die for the sins of the world gave us a second chance to accept Him as our Lord and Savior and have everlasting life with Him in heaven. Today we will read about God's promise to His people, a new heaven and new earth.

U God created humans to live forever. We will either exist eternally *separated* from God by sin or exist eternally *with* Him through forgiveness and salvation. To be separated from God is death forevermore in Hell. To be eternally in union with Christ is life in Heaven, for all eternity. We believe that Heaven and Hell are real places of existence, and as we walk out our faith in obedience to Christ, we can have assurance of life everlasting with God. There will be a day when we take our last breath here on earth, and our next breath will be taken before the Father in Heaven. The Bible tells us that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (2 Cor 5:8). Every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Rom 14:11; Phil 2:10-11; Is 45:23). There will be no second chance on that day. For those who reject Jesus, it will be a day of judgment and eternal death. But for those who have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior, it will be a glorious day of God's grace, mercy, and everlasting life. Are you secure in your eternal future?



As you're listening, what is your promise of eternity with Jesus?

TELL THE STORY: _____

TELL THE STORY



READ THE STORY



Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story. Then read it aloud together in your group.

REVELATION 21:1-5 | THE NEW CREATION

KEY VERSE

Revelation 21:4

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will no longer exist; grief, crying, and pain will exist no longer, because the previous things have passed away."

PRAYER Pattern

PRAISE

Focus on praise and reverence, beginning with God's character

RESPOND

Responding to the Holy Spirit through repentance

ASK

Praying about resources and relationship issues of life

YIELD

Being ready to do the work that God has prepared us to do

For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



Although we cannot see it with our earthly eyes, how is heaven described in this passage?



What are some misconceptions of heaven that you may have heard or personally believed in your life?

In reference to this passage, what part of heaven do you look forward to the most?

What is your promise of eternity with Jesus?



How can you use this passage to encourage someone who may be struggling this week?

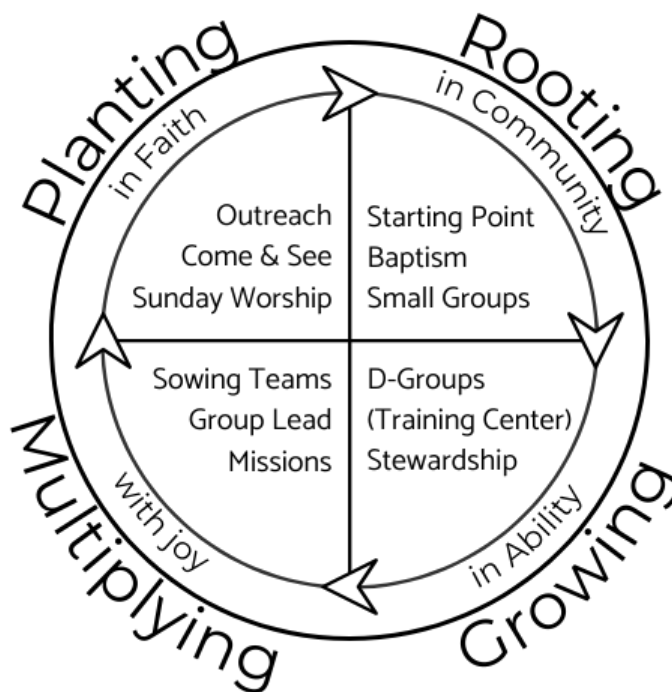
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MIN

CLOSING PRAYER: _____

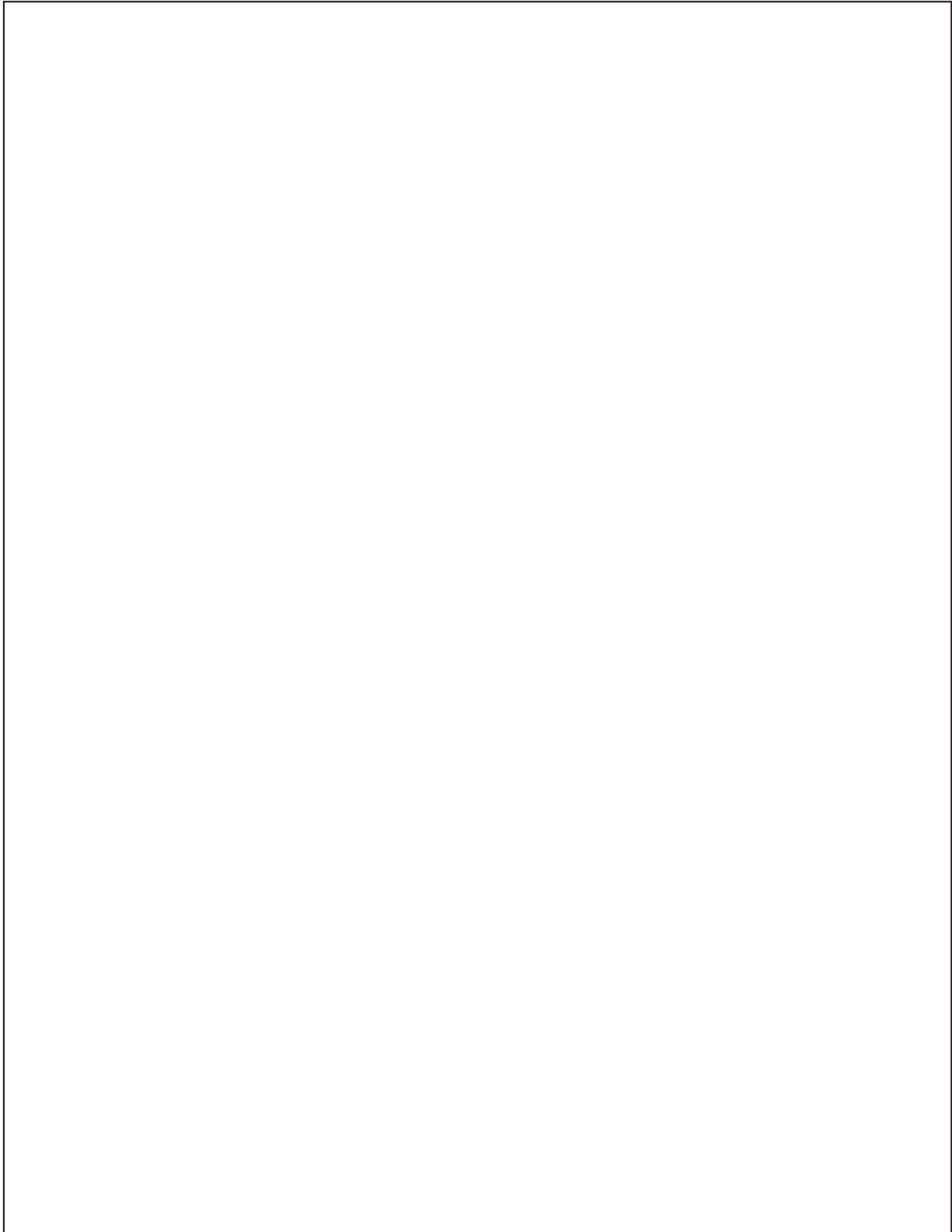
Use the guide in the left column as you PRAY through the PRAYER Pattern.

NOTES: _____

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP AND ASSIGN ROLES FOR NEXT WEEK



Romans 6:1-5

What should we say then? Should we continue in sin so that grace may multiply? ² Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Or are you unaware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be in the likeness of his resurrection.

COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by
welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit
into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why
we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy
boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage
for trust, transparency
and relationships

TOPIC

Discussing God's
Word together

QUESTIONS

Applying what we have
learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to worship God, focus on
His mission, confess, and
present any requests to Him

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group
the following week by
assigning them one
of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to
resolving conflict biblically
according to Matthew 18

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

20
MIN

LET'S GET STARTED...

In Jesus' day, the religious leaders in Israel would baptize Gentiles for purification when they converted to Judaism. John the Baptist was sent before Jesus to prepare the way for Him. The Pharisees questioned John when they saw him baptizing Jews, asking who gave him the authority to treat God's chosen people like Gentiles. John was baptizing people with water as a symbol of repentance. He even baptized Jesus, not because Jesus had sinned but because Jesus was confessing sin on behalf of the nation of Israel and was modeling obedience to the Father. Before His ascension, Jesus commanded His disciples in Matthew 28:19-20 to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For this reason, you and I know Jesus today.

When a couple marries, they place a ring on each other's hands. This ring is an outward symbol of an inward devotion and commitment they made to each other. It lets the world know that they belong to each other. If they were to remove that ring, it wouldn't change the fact that they are married. This is very similar to baptism. The act of baptism in itself does not save us, but it is a public expression of our devotion and commitment to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death, burial, and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols as reminders of His death. These two ordinances are baptism and The Lord's Supper. Next week we will discuss the Lord's Supper in more detail. This week, however, we will dive into baptism. The word baptism in the Bible was literally translated from the Greek word "baptizo" (bap-tid'-zo), which means to immerse, submerge, wash, or make clean. Baptism by immersion was both modeled and commanded by Jesus Christ. It is the first sign of obedience for those who have put their trust in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. As Christ modeled baptism, He commands us as believers to take this step of obedience to publically show that we were buried with Him in death, and raised to walk in newness of life.

As you are listening, think of ways you have been made new in Christ.

TELL THE STORY: _____

TELL THE STORY



READ THE STORY



10
MIN

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story. Then read it aloud together in your group.

ROMANS 6:1-5 | NEW LIFE IN CHRIST / BAPTISM

KEY VERSE

Matthew 28:19-20

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

PRAYER Pattern

PRAISE

Focus on praise and reverence, beginning with God's character

RESPOND

Responding to the Holy Spirit through repentance

ASK

Praying about resources and relationship issues of life

YIELD

Being ready to do the work that God has prepared us to do

For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



According to this passage, what is the importance of baptism?

What does this passage say about how we should live as believers in Christ?



What are some things that Christ has made new in your life?

If you have not been baptized, what are some questions that may be holding you back?



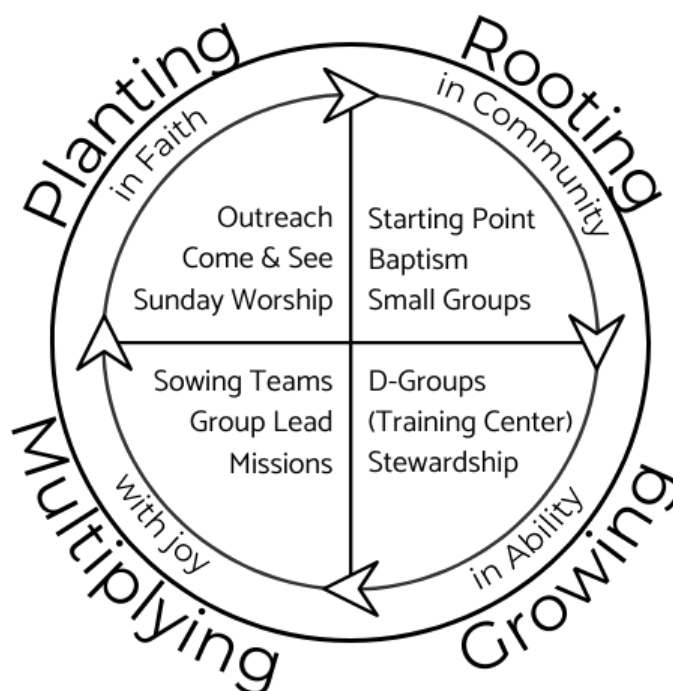
If you or someone you know has not been baptized, engage in conversation this week with your Life Group leader. Talk to them about baptism and when you/they can be baptized.

CLOSING PRAYER: _____

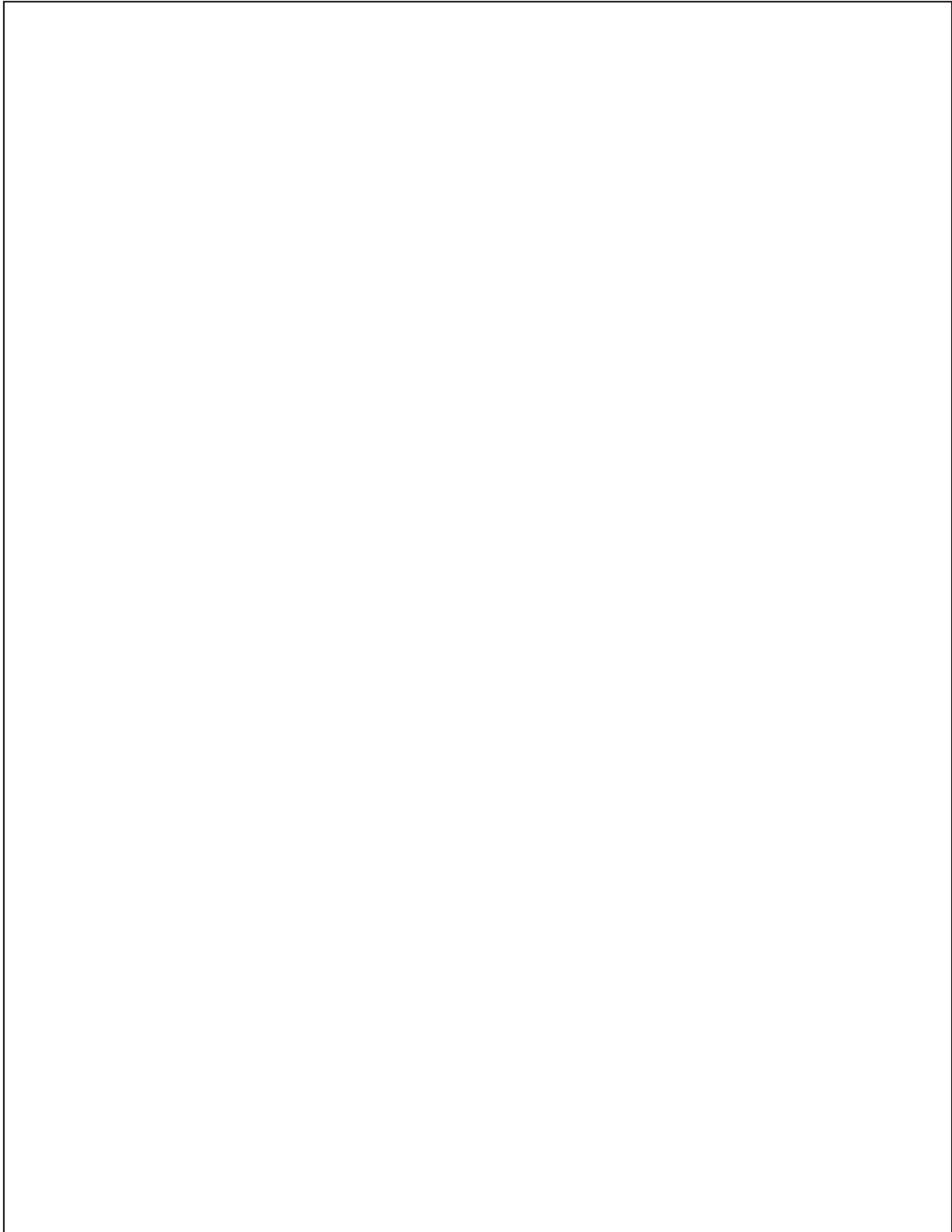
Use the guide in the left column as you PRAY through the PRAYER Pattern.

NOTES: _____

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP AND ASSIGN ROLES FOR NEXT WEEK



1 Corinthians 11:23-28

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: On the night when He was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

²⁵ In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

QUESTIONS

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to worship God, focus on His mission, confess, and present any requests to Him

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to Matthew 18

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

20
MIN

LET'S GET STARTED...

In the book of Exodus, we read about Moses approaching Pharaoh to free the Israelites from slavery. Pharaoh's heart was hard, and God sent twelve plagues on the land of Egypt in order to convince the ruler to let His people go free. With the last plague, God struck down all the firstborns of the land, both man and beast. To spare the Hebrews, God told them to sacrifice a spotless lamb and spread its blood over the doorposts of their homes. That night, He passed over these houses, sparing those inside. This was called the Passover, which is celebrated every year by the Jewish people, even to this day. The night before Jesus was crucified, He met with His disciples in the upper room to share in the Passover meal. He started by commemorating the traditions it entailed (See Mark 14:22-25. He took bread, gave thanks, and said to His disciples, "Take and eat. This is My body." Then Jesus took up the third of four cups of wine traditionally drunk at the Passover, the "cup of redemption." To the disciples' surprise, He said, "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many." Christ followed the requirements of the law, but He transformed and fulfilled the meaning of the lamb, the bread, and the wine. However, one thing stayed the same: the need for a substitute as a sacrifice in place of the guilty sinner.

2
MIN

It is so easy to examine and judge the sins of others, but acknowledging, examining, and judging your own sins is a sign of a mature believer. The Lord's Supper is a staple ordinance, along with baptism. It is also known as Communion or Eucharist, which means the giving of thanks. This symbolic act is a chance for us to remember the price that Jesus paid for us on the cross. Even though He knew no sin, He took all the sins of the world--past, present, and future--by dying an excruciating death on a cross. As believers in Christ, we are commanded to participate in the Lord's Supper. However, it is a grave matter to partake in the Lord's Supper with an unprepared heart. We must take the time beforehand to examine our hearts, judge our sins, and confess them to the Lord. The Lord's Supper is not a ritual, but a powerful symbol of identity and grace. It is not a time of sorrow, but a time of thanksgiving and joyful anticipation of seeing Jesus one day soon!

As you're listening, think of how the Lord's Supper reminds you of who you are and what Christ has done.

TELL THE STORY: _____

TELL THE STORY



READ THE STORY



10
MIN

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story. Then read it aloud together in your group.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-28 | THE LORD'S SUPPER

KEY VERSE

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates
His own love toward
us, in that while we
were yet sinners,
Christ died for us.

PRAYEr Pattern

PRAISE

Focus on praise
and reverence,
beginning with
God's character

RESPOND

Responding to
the Holy Spirit
through repentance

ASK

Praying about
resources and
relationship
issues of life

YIELD

Being ready to
do the work that
God has prepared
us to do

For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



What does the Lord's Supper represent?

Why do we take the Lord's Supper?



How does the Lord's Supper remind you of who you are and what Christ has done?

How does today's discussion affect the way you view the Lord's Supper?



As you prepare for the Lord's Supper next time, remember to examine your heart beforehand.

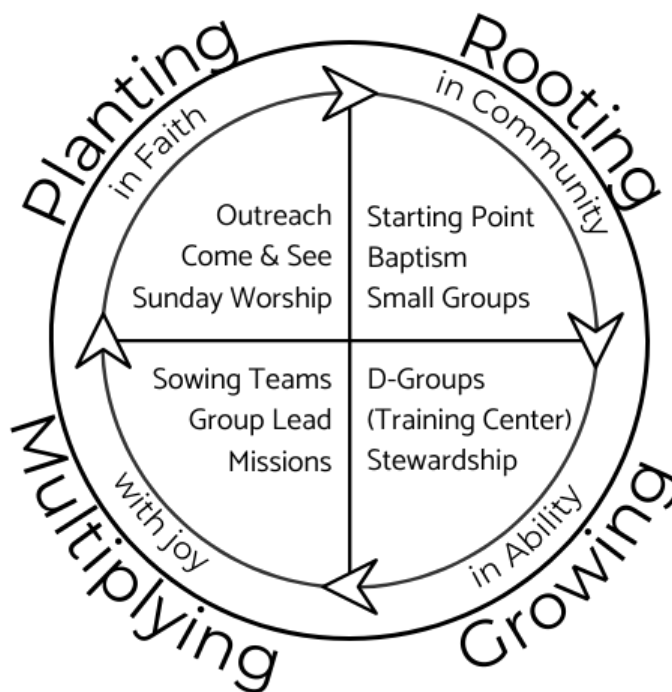


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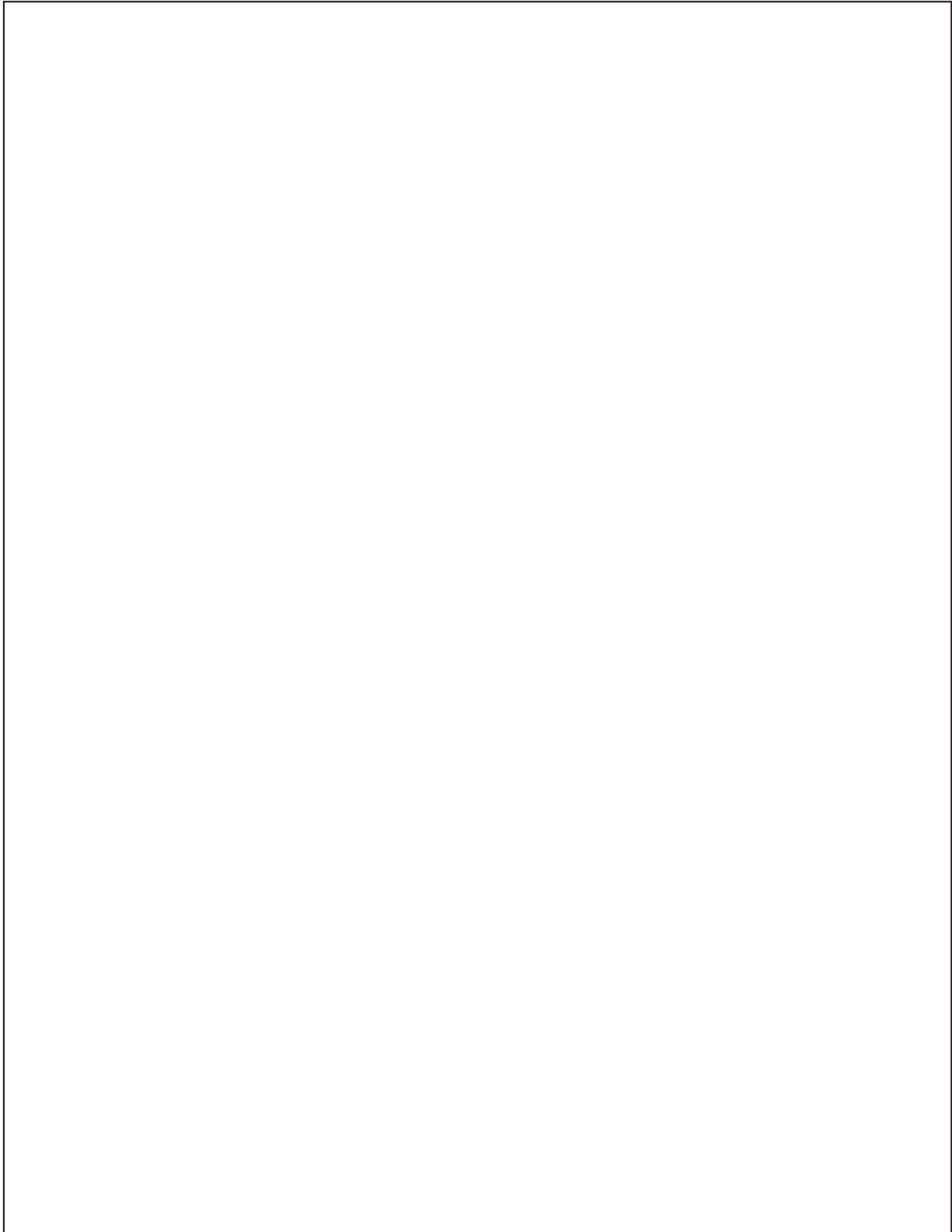
Use the guide in the left column as you PRAY through the PRAYEr Pattern.

NOTES: _____

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP AND ASSIGN ROLES FOR NEXT WEEK



Deuteronomy 8:18

but remember that the Lord your God gives you the power to gain wealth, in order to confirm his covenant he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

¹⁹ Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body.

COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

QUESTIONS

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to worship God, focus on His mission, confess, and present any requests to Him

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to Matthew 18

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____



LET'S GET STARTED...

From the beginning of time, God has granted His people with the things of this world so that we may steward them properly. He entrusted Adam to work the Garden of Eden and name the animals. He charged Noah to build an ark that would preserve a remnant of people and animals. He placed Joseph in Egypt to manage the grain and save people from starvation. And Jesus used a parable of the talents to talk about how God trusts us with the gifts He has given us.

H.....

Imagine if you went to a church, and it was tattered and uncared for, with peeling paint, broken doors, overgrown landscaping, and smudged windows that blocked the light. You'd wonder about the church staff, wouldn't you? The church is meant to celebrate the glory of God, yet if the staff doesn't respect the building enough to take care of it, what does this say about their care for people or their relationship with God? In the same way, it is so important for us to take care of the things God has entrusted us with: our time, money, gifts, and bodies. When we neglect those things, we do not honor God because He is the source of all that we have. We must recognize that everything belongs to Him and properly managing it all on His behalf is honoring to the Lord.

U

As you are listening, be thinking of things in your life that you need to put more care into so that God will be glorified.



TELL THE STORY: _____

TELL THE STORY



→→→

READ THE STORY



Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story. Then read it aloud together in your group.

DEUT 8:18 & 1 COR 6:19-20 | STEWARDSHIP

KEY VERSE

Colossians 1:16

For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created through him and for him.

PRAYER Pattern

PRAISE

Focus on praise and reverence, beginning with God's character

RESPOND

Responding to the Holy Spirit through repentance

ASK

Praying about resources and relationship issues of life

YIELD

Being ready to do the work that God has prepared us to do

For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



Who is our source of wealth?

How does this passage describe our body?



Why is it so important for us to take care of what God has given us?

What are some things in your life that you may need to put more care into so that God will be glorified?



This week, be intentional about caring for the things God has entrusted you with and thank Him for all that you have been given.



CLOSING PRAYER: _____

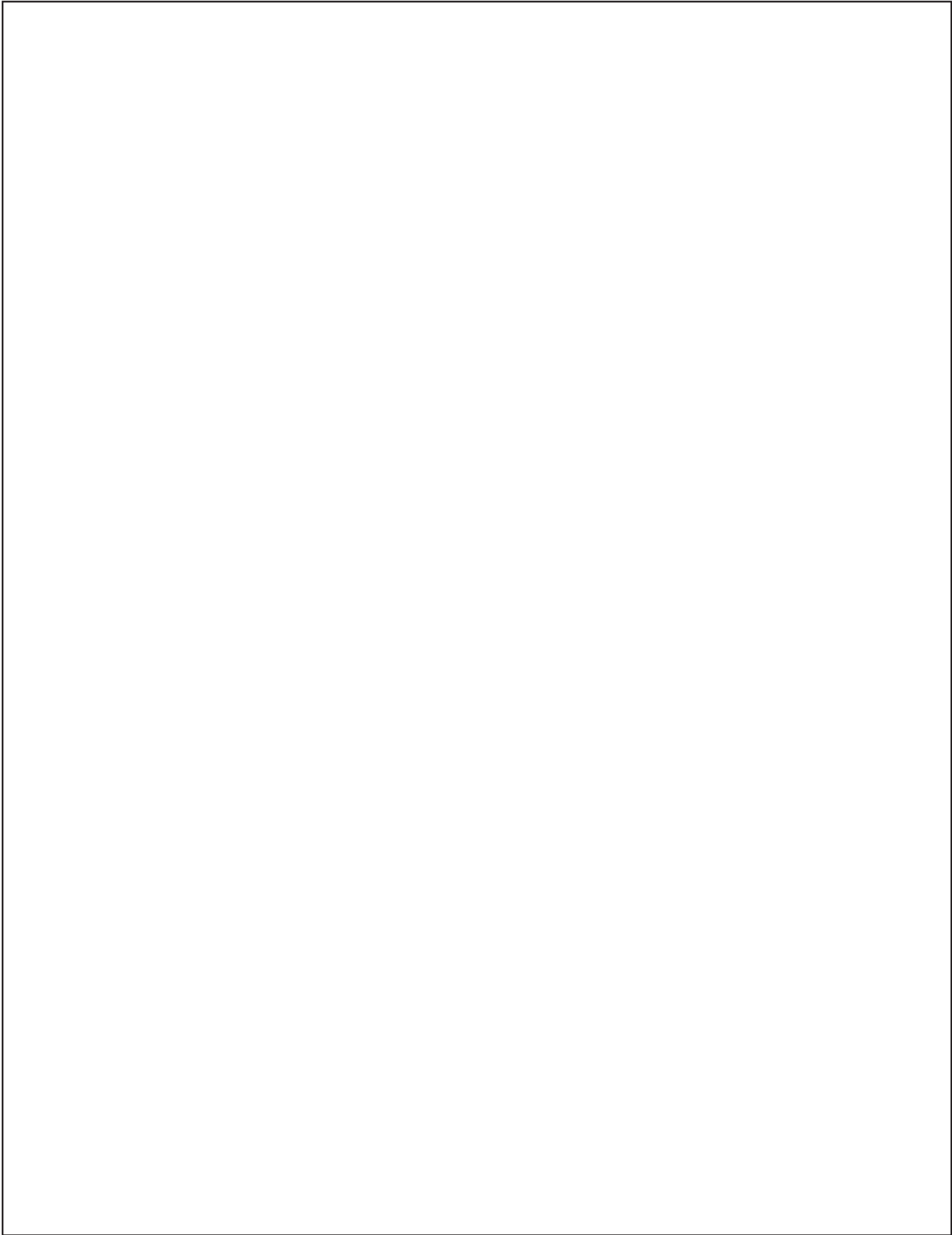
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NOTES: _____

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP AND ASSIGN ROLES FOR NEXT WEEK



Roaman 12:1-8

Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

³ For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think. Instead, think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one. ⁴ Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, ⁵ in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another. ⁶ According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: If prophecy, use it according to the proportion of one's faith; ⁷ if service, use it in service; if teaching, in teaching; ⁸ if exhorting, in exhortation; giving, with generosity; leading, with diligence; showing mercy, with cheerfulness.

WHAT WE DO: FIND YOUR PLACE

COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

QUESTIONS

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to worship God, focus on His mission, confess, and present any requests to Him

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to Matthew 18

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____



LET'S GET STARTED...

In the Old Testament, God's law required the sacrifice of a spotless animal to atone for the sins of the people. Sacrifice was very important, but even then, God made it abundantly clear that obedience from the heart was more so. When Abraham brought Isaac to the top of the mountain, Isaac willingly put himself on the altar, knowing that he may die in obedience to the Lord. But the Lord sent a ram to be sacrificed in his place. Isaac died to himself that day, voluntarily yielding to the will of God and becoming a living sacrifice. Jesus is the perfect example of this. He physically died in obedience to His Father's will, yet He rose again and lives in heaven as a living sacrifice, still bearing the scars from His crucifixion.

When we become believers in Christ, God transforms our hearts and minds. He also desires for us to become living sacrifices. Not by physically dying, of course, but by daily laying aside our own desires and putting all our energy and resources into trusting Him. This is done out of thankfulness to God, that He has covered our sins through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus. The way in which we live our daily lives shows our degree of trust in the Lord. Many are searching for identity when they are actually looking for a place to belong, be accepted, and have significance. This is only found in Christ. As we discover our new identity, we soon find out that it comes with many features that make us useful to His service. The key to an honest and accurate self-evaluation is knowing the basis of our self-worth, which is our identity in Christ. Today's passage is just a small glimpse of some of the gifts that God gives His people. As a body, we all have been given different gifts that balance each other. Nobody's gift is greater than another. Recognizing this creates unity and builds a healthy church.



As you're listening, be thinking of how you can use the gifts God has given you to build His church.

TELL THE STORY: _____

TELL THE STORY



READ THE STORY



Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story. Then read it aloud together in your group.

ROMANS 12:1-8 | MANY GIFTS ONE BODY

KEY VERSE

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

PRAYER Pattern

PRAISE

Focus on praise and reverence, beginning with God's character

RESPOND

Responding to the Holy Spirit through repentance

ASK

Praying about resources and relationship issues of life

YIELD

Being ready to do the work that God has prepared us to do

For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



Why should we allow the transformation and renewal of our mind?

What are some of the gifts God has given His people according to this passage? (Some others can be found in 1 Cor 12:8-11)



Use this time to identify the gifts God has given each person in the room.

How can you use the gifts God has given you to build His church?



Be intentional this week about using the gifts God has given you to build up the body of believers.

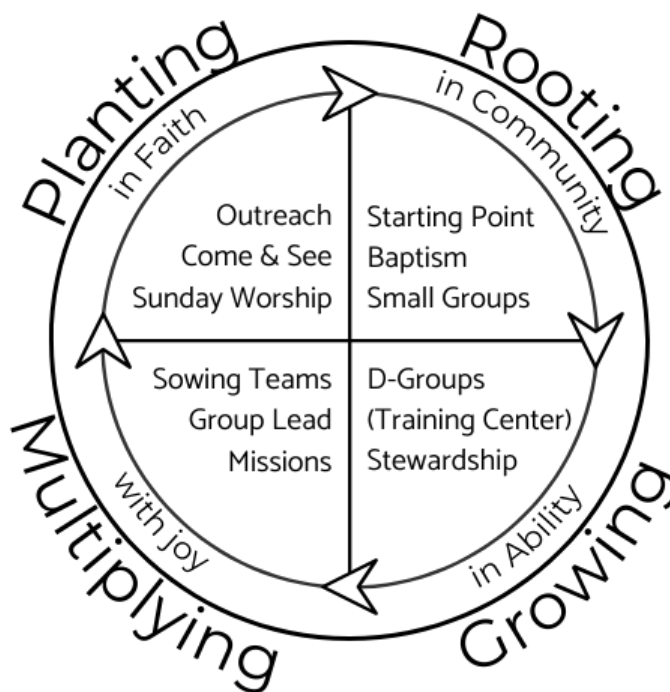
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MIN

CLOSING PRAYER: _____

Use the guide in the left column as you PRAY through the PRAYER Pattern.

NOTES: _____

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP AND ASSIGN ROLES FOR NEXT WEEK

GROUND RULES

WHY GROUND RULES?

Many of us find ourselves cringing when the subject of rules come up. Rules can often indicate limits or restrictions that impede our desired actions. The ground rules we will abide by are specifically designed to give freedom rather than restrictions. It is our desire that through effective ground rules each person will feel the freedom to share from their hearts, feel the assurance of confidence, and experience a group willing to listen. When interacting as a group, we can find ourselves checking out or shutting down for the smallest of reasons. Being aware of our impact on each other is paramount for a safe environment.

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY:

We will all do our part to create an environment where everyone can be real, open, and honest with our struggles and victories. What is said in the group stays in the group.

NO FIXING OTHERS:

Try to hear what people are sharing without trying to fix them. If they want your advice, they'll ask for it. If people think that as soon as they share a problem or issue everyone is going to immediately try to fix them (offer advice/solutions), often they simply won't share at all.

LISTEN & PAUSE

Let's value one another during the discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Don't think about what you're going to say next or how you're going to respond; really listen. After someone shares, give a pause to allow the group to feel the weight of what is being shared and fully consider it before the next person shares. This pause also gives the person time to reflect a little deeper while continuing to share more. Remember, SILENCE IS OK. It gives time for reflection and others to begin sharing.

DON'T RESCUE:

When people are sharing something deeply personal and painful, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or the situation. Often this will cause people to stop sharing and result in not going as deep as they intended. Resist the temptation to rescue people. We must be sensitive to what the Holy Spirit is doing in their life.

USE "I" STATEMENTS:

It's easy to talk about the issues of others; in LIFE Groups we will use "I" statements. We will try to avoid words such as "them," "the church," "us," "we," "he/she," etc. Using "I" statements helps us to focus on what God is doing in our lives and gives us opportunity to self-reflect. This allows maximum potential for effectual change in our lives.

NO CROSS TALK:

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, texting, or phone calls. Cross talk devalues the person sharing and communicates that they are not as important as what you may be doing. (Be sensitive to those with cell phones—kids, family issues, on-call at work). Remember, when going over the Ground Rules in your group, give those who may be on-call or have children the opportunity to communicate that they may need to take a call or text during group.

STAY ON TOPIC:

Much time and prayer is put into the determination of the biblical direction our church is headed. We must value the importance of that direction in taking it to a heart level in our LIFE Groups during the week. In addition, LIFE Group leaders prepare according to this direction and the topic for each lesson. Rabbit trails may devalue the unity as well as what the Lord is doing in our church body. In honoring each individual's time & schedules, please try to stay on topic with every group question. Rabbit trails can also add time to the end of the LIFE Group and does not honor others in our group who may need to get to their families and/or may need rest for the next day's busy schedule.

AVOID SENSITIVE TOPICS:

We are living in very uncertain times. It seems that everyone is offended by something. Hot topics like politics, views on society, and our personal ideals about certain national headlines can cause inappropriate rabbit trails if we aren't careful. It is best to avoid these topics all together and stick to God's Word and His truth.

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK:

We all have a story or response to share, making it important that we value each other during LIFE Group. Sometimes we may find ourselves overtalking out of nervousness or even habit. However, to honor each person and their time, we must do our part by keeping our own talk time limited and to the point, giving each person an opportunity to interact.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION IDEAS: (QUICK ONES ARE IN BOLD)

1. **What was your first job?**
2. Tell of a memorable time of cooking in the kitchen?
3. **What household chore do you actually enjoy?**
4. **What's the longest trip you've ever been on?**
5. Say a line from your favorite movie (see if group can guess it).
6. What do you wish someone taught you a long time ago?
7. **What is the weirdest job you've ever had?**
8. **What is your worst habit?**
9. **If you could be any item in the grocery store what would you be?**
10. What's the weirdest food you have eaten?
11. Share of an encounter you had with a famous person.
12. What was your favorite hangout as a teenager?
13. What takes a lot of time but is totally worth it?
14. What is the worst meal you've ever made?
15. **What is one non-living item you can't live without?**
16. **If you could only eat one thing for dinner (breakfast or lunch), for the rest of your life what would it be?**
17. **What's the last song you listened to?**
18. **Share of two words that describe you best.**
19. What is your biggest phobia?
20. If you were in the Olympics, what sport would it be for?
21. What is one moment in your life that has defined you?
22. **If you could only have one of your five senses, which one would it be?**
23. Share of a time when you laughed at an inappropriate time.
24. What website or app doesn't exist, but you really wish it did?
25. If you could be a fly on a wall, where would you most want to be?
26. **What is your favorite soda?**
27. **What do you think the ideal age to be is?**
28. **If you could be a fictitious superhero, who would you be? Or what super power would you most want?**
29. Greatest peer pressure as an adult?
30. **What is your favorite music genre?**
31. How do you react when people sing "Happy Birthday" to you in a restaurant?
32. When someone finds out what you do, or where you are from, what questions do they always ask you?
33. **Who is your favorite singer?**
34. **What topic could you give a 20-minute presentation on without any preparation?**
35. **In just a few words, what is at the top of your bucket list?**
36. How would you describe God to a child?
37. What color best describes you and why?
38. What was the high point of last week? The low point?
39. **What one word would be your theme for the year?**
40. Name one person who has had the biggest impact in your life and why?
41. **If I could visit any place in the world, it would be...**
42. If I had a million dollars to spend for the benefit of mankind...
43. The thing that causes me the greatest satisfaction is...
44. What is your favorite memory as a child?
45. What was your worst haircut experience?
46. What's your most embarrassing moment?
47. What would you do with an extra free day off of work?
48. Where would you go if you could go anywhere in the world?
49. **If you could become an animal for one day, which one would it be?**
50. **What is one secret place in your house that you only clean on special occasions (like mother-in-law visiting)?**
51. If you knew your time was cut short, what's one thing you'd change about the way you are now living?
52. If you could be famous, what would you be famous for?
53. If you could go back in time and not return, what would you try to accomplish even if you knew you might change the course of history?
54. If someone were to write a book about you, what do you think the title and theme would be?
55. If your animals could talk, what would they tell you?
56. Which emoji best describes you and why?
57. **What was the make / model / year / color of your first car?**
58. What's your biggest pet peeve?
59. What scene in a movie always gives you a certain feeling, everytime you watch it?
60. Favorite Christmas Carol and why?
61. If you could have coffee with anyone in the history of ever, who would it be and why?
62. What were your favorite tv shows when you were growing up?

ADDITIONAL NOTES / PRAYER REQUESTS

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MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES

