



life group guide

january 2024

Read Matthew 28:18-20.

What did Jesus tell the disciples to do? How would you define the word, "disciple"?

Read Galatians 2:20, John 14:23, Romans 8:9.

We were reminded this week that the Christian life is not living "for" Jesus, but instead, the Christian life is Jesus living His life "in and through" us. What does it practically look like to live this out?

The life of a wholehearted follower of Jesus is all about relationships. Our primary relationship is to be with God.

Read John 17:3 and John 15:5.

We are also commanded to have a relationship with one another in our church family.

Read Gen. 2:18 and John 15:12.

Finally, we are called to a relationship with those in the world.

Read John 17:18.

All three of these relationships can be summed up very well in John 13:34-35.

Which of these three relationships (God, other disciples, or the world) is easiest for you to develop and why? Which of the three is the most difficult relationship to foster and why?

Our relationship with the Lord is the most important in our lives.

Read Matthew 6:33 and Deuteronomy 6:5.



REFLECTION

Ask yourself this question: Could my relationship with God be described as one that is prioritized as the most important relationship in my life? Why or why not?

PRAYER PROMPT

Take some time to pray as a group for real-life change in your life and the life of our church family as we seek to become wholehearted followers of Jesus.

Read Mark 1:35.

Jesus spent time with His Father. The only way to strengthen any relationship in our lives is through time. Specifically, we need to spend time with God.

Take a moment and think about your daily schedule. Do you think you have any areas in your life where time is being wasted? What better way could that time be used?

In Mark 1:35, we find five aspects of Jesus' time with the Father it was: intentional, in the morning, without distractions, alone, and consistent. Of these five aspects, which one comes most easily to you? Why do you suppose that is? Which one could use some more attention?

What are some practical ways to improve some of those weaknesses?

What are the biggest distractions you encounter when approaching your time with God? What steps could be taken to overcome these distractions?

Jesus not only spent time with the Father individually, but He also spent time with God while in the synagogues and with His disciples.

Read Matthew 26:30 and Luke 4:16.

Read Hebrews 10:24-25.

How would you describe your level of participation and frequency of corporate worship?

We are to worship God with others. Read Psalm 95:1-7 and note the use of the plural, "us" and "we."

We gather for worship together because God is worthy of our worship. What does it mean when we say that God is worthy of our worship?

Read 1 Chronicles 16:24-29 and Psalm 100:1-5.



PRAYER PROMPT

Spend some time praying as a group for the Lord to bless you with rich and refreshing time with Him individually and corporately.

Read 1 John 1:1-4.

Why is it important that our fellowship is rooted and grounded in Christ, the foundation, and not just in shared interests and life stages?

Considering 1 John 1:3, our time together is firstly meant to proclaim to one another "that which we have seen and heard." Share with the group someone in your life who consistently proclaimed the things they have seen and heard about Christ (the Gospel) to them. Who has been a constant reminder of the Good News of Jesus in your lives?

John ultimately shares why he is writing these things, and he says it is for the joy of his listeners and his joy. Joy is used 59 times in the New Testament. What makes a Christian's "joy" different from mere happiness?

How is joy, then, most available in fellowship with one another, as opposed to following Jesus alone?

Read John 13:34-35, 1 John 3:23, Hebrews 3:13, 1 John 1:7 and Hebrews 10:25.

Our lives are meant to be lived with one another, and Scripture tells us what our lives are meant to look like together. What are some of the "one another" examples that you know off the top of your head?

There are over 50 commands in the New Testament that speak on how we should live with one another.

Read Colossians 3:12-17.

How is "one another" referenced?

Colossians 3:14 implies that, above all the other things that we can do together in Christian community, it is most important that we "put on love." That we love one another. What does this love practically look like in a church community?



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DEEPER

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The foundation of Christian fellowship is Jesus Christ. If our fellowship is not based on sharing the Good News of the Gospel with one another, we are not experiencing Christian fellowship.
- The substance of our fellowship is the commands of scripture that express themselves in the references to "one another." The most important one is that we "love one another" which binds all of the other things that we do in perfect harmony.

PRAYER PROMPTS

Ask the Lord to reveal things in your life that are keeping you from experiencing true Christian community. Are there things that you need to remove from your schedule to allow for necessary time with other believers? Are you seeking fellowship for only what it can provide for you, and not for what you can contribute?

Ask the Lord to provide you with tangible ways to practice the "one another" scriptures we examined in your family, work, and the church.



ADDITIONAL STUDY RESOURCES

The "One Anothers" of Scripture, by Kevin McConaghy.

<https://www.watermark.org/blog/the-one-anothers-of-scripture>

The Puritans on Loving One Another, edited by Don Kistler.

<https://heritagebooks.org/products/the-puritans-on-loving-one-another.html>

True Community, by Jerry Bridges.

<https://www.heritagebooks.org/products/true-community-bridges.html>

Life Together, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

<https://www.harpercollins.com/products/life-together-dietrich-bonhoeffer?variant=32117793620002>

Jesus spent His entire life living on mission for God to bring people into a right relationship with Himself.

Read Acts 1:8.

What is a witness?

What do you think comes to most people's mind when they hear that they are to "be witnesses of Jesus"?

Do you have a personal experience with Christ to share with others as a testimony to what He has done in your life? Have two or three people share their story of coming to know Jesus.

What is the scope of the mission that Jesus gives to us in Acts 1:8?

What opportunities are around you to share with others: locally, globally, or cross-culturally?

Read Romans 10:14-15.

What do you think was Paul's purpose for writing this passage, what does he expect us to do?

Read John 17:18, John 20:21, and Matthew 5:14-16.

What does it mean to be the "light of the world"?

Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-17.

How do we go about revealing Jesus to the world?



PRAYER PROMPT

Spend some time praying for an awareness of all the opportunities the Lord provides to be His witness.