

LIFE GROUP LESSON

Core Values • Week of September 9

One of our Core Values here at Christ Church is: Small Groups are the best place for life transformation. God calls His people to gather corporately and worship, but He also calls us to ‘do life together’ in smaller settings so that we become grounded in His Word, develop healthy relationships, and allow others to pray for us and hold us accountable. Should we begin to veer off-path, there will be like-minded brothers and sisters around us who will cheer us on. Making the choice to become a fully devoted follower of Christ means that we join the Christ Team!

Just as our resurrected Lord was about to ascend to be with the Father, He gave clear marching orders. Jesus said: “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20). If you are a baptized follower of Christ your mission is also to ‘Go! And make disciples.’ The apostle Paul says that God now enables us to become “ministers of His new covenant” (2 Corinthians 3:6).

Read 2 Corinthians 8:16-24

Paul is preparing to send a substantial offering back to the church in Judea. Many of Paul's churches throughout Greece and the province of Asia had been faithfully collecting this large offering for over a year. Now that it was time to get it to Jerusalem, he wanted to make sure the relief fund was safely and honorably delivered. “We are traveling together to guard against any critics for the way we are handling this generous gift. We are careful to be honorable before the Lord but we also want everyone else to see that we are honorable” (v20-21).

1. Jesus modeled team ministry and Paul tells Titus it is essential in fulfilling the mission.
 - a) The assignment was to take money to Jerusalem—however they would accomplish it better (and more safely) by doing it as a team.
 - b) In ‘doing life alone’ you are more likely to get ambushed. But in ‘doing life as a team’ you are more likely to stay-the-course, accomplish the mission, and arrive safely. Read together the following acronym for TEAM:

Together
Everyone
Achieves
More

Question for discussion: What burden (problem, concern, or issue) are you carrying by yourself that would be more successful if you shared the load, got advice, or asked for help?

Question: Who have you known that sought out help, counseling, and advice from others—and through the support of a Life Group found strength to continue the journey?

2. Solitude can be healthy but isolation can be deadly.

Question: How do you see that solitude can be helpful in your life (or someone close to you)?

Question: How have you seen that isolation can be unhealthy for you or people you know?

3. Paul first speaks about a life of generosity in verses 1-15. In today's passage, Paul commissions Titus, along with other brothers, to bring the offering to Jerusalem. This is the same Titus that Paul addresses in the *Book of Titus* where we find these powerful words regarding team ministry and mentoring:

Read: Titus 2: 1-7

- a) Couples get married and when they run into problems they choose to isolate instead of integrate. We try to carry our problems alone—instead of seeking help from experienced married couples, pastors or counselors.
- b) The Millennial and Z generation are crying out for mentoring in their single and married lives.

Question: Do you keep your problems to yourself? How would you benefit from choosing to integrate your life with others instead of isolating yourself, your marriage, your family issues?

Question: With some training and encouragement, would you be willing to help mentor, or raise up younger leaders around you? Perhaps your Life Group would be willing to sponsor a ‘student night’ with a meal and maybe writing letters of encouragement to those who work in the children's ministry or student ministry. Also, remember prayer is powerful! Take time to pray for those who are called to serve on the front-lines of the coming generation(s).



CORE VALUES

Text: 2 Corinthians 8:16-24

- C** - Children and Students matter to Jesus so Christ Church will provide excellence in Children and Student Ministry.
- H** - Healing happens best in need based ministries and small groups.
- R** - Reaching millions of unchurched persons for Christ is our mission statement because lost people matter to God.
- I** - Inspirational and Incarnational Worship that is relevant and authentic is at the heart of who we are as we help people encounter the Living God each week.
- S** - **Small groups (life groups) are the best place for life transformation.**

PLAIN TRUTH

Life groups _____.

1) Solitude can be _____, but isolation can be _____.

2) Fellowship is _____, but clarity of _____ and _____ is _____.

One Year Bible Reading

Sept. 9: Isaiah 3:1-5:30, 2 Corinthians 11:1-15, Psalm 53:1-6, Proverbs 22:28-29
Sept. 10: Isaiah 6:1-7:25, 2 Corinthians 11:16-33, Psalm 54:1-7, Proverbs 23:1-3
Sept. 11: Isaiah 8:1-9:21, 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, Psalm 55:1-23, Proverbs 23:4-5
Sept. 12: Isaiah 10:1-11:16, 2 Corinthians 12:11-21, Psalm 56:1-13, Prov. 23:6-8
Sept. 13: Isaiah 12:1-14:32, 2 Corinthians 13:1-14, Psalm 57:1-11, Prov. 23:9-11
Sept. 14: Isaiah 15:1-18:7, Galatians 1:1-24, Psalm 58:1-11, Proverbs 23:12
Sept. 15: Isaiah 19:1-21:17, Galatians 2:1-16, Psalm 59:1-17, Proverbs 23:13-14