

SERMON BASED LIFE GROUP GUIDE

1. LOOK AROUND - COMMUNITY

- Spend some time catching up, focus on doing life together...not just small talk, but intentional relationship-building, sharing life, struggles, etc.
- Be sure to discuss/plan any upcoming Mission/Service Project.

2. LOOK UP - INTENTIONAL PRAYER TIME

- This is not gossip time, not praying for Aunt Sally's sister's cousin's dog. This time is intentional prayer about real life issues, struggles, challenges, and things to celebrate.
- This is also the time when you mention the *empty chair*—pray for the person that needs to experience life-giving community.

3. LOOK IN - DISCUSSION

- Read the Scripture from Sunday's sermon and share the Big Idea.
- Begin the discussion by asking for broad takeaways from the passage or sermon. This gives an opportunity for people to share what God is teaching them. Conversations that drift into other topics aren't productive, so be prepared to steer the conversation back to the Bible.
- Ask Questions like these:
 - What stuck out to you from the sermon or passage?
 - What caught your attention?
 - What really spoke to you?
 - What was your biggest takeaway?
 - What did God teach you from the message or this passage?
 - Did you have any questions after the sermon?

4. LOOK OUT - APPLICATION

- Here is the heart of the discussion. Most of the work of observation and interpretation will have been completed by the Pastor during the sermon. Your Life Group provides a great setting to go deep on application.
- Mention any Next Steps shared during Sunday's sermon.
- Ask Questions like these:
 - What do you think God is wanting you to do as a result of this scripture/the sermon?
 - What is one thing you can do this week to put this into practice?
 - How can we as a group live this out together?
 - What is one action step you will take to apply it this week?
- Ask about obstacles to application. We can dream up all the applications we wish—putting them into practice is the difficult part. Once the group discusses a few concrete applications of the passage, ask what might get in the way of the action steps they want to take.

5. CLOSE IN PRAYER

- Real change in our lives doesn't happen because of a sermon, an insight, or a Life Group discussion. We need the Holy Spirit's powerful, transforming work to help us glorify God. Before your Life Group ends, be sure to commit your applications to God.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY FOR YOUR USE

If you would like some deeper insight into the scripture from Sunday, feel free to check out the following sources.

[The Gospel Coalition Commentary](#)

[IVP New Testament Commentary](#)

NOTES

Remember, your primary job as a Life Group Leader is to help your group apply and live out what God has taught them. The pastor/speaker's job is to exegete the scripture and provide interpretation. That work has already been done—your task is to help the group take the next step in the process of living it out!