

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WE ARE THE CHURCH

AN EIGHT-SESSION VIDEO-BASED STUDY FOR LIFE GROUPS



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CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH



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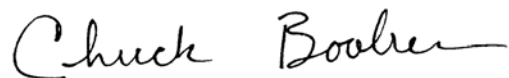
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WELCOME FROM PASTOR CHUCK

You are about to embark on an incredible journey with God and with his family over the next few weeks. If this is your first time ever in a LIFE Group I want to personally welcome you and congratulate you for taking this step. If you have been in a LIFE Group or Small Group of any kind before my prayer is that during the next few weeks God speaks to you in ways that you had never imagined before. Things become clearer, his voice becomes louder, your walk becomes closer, your life takes on purpose, meaning and significance that ignites that faith you once had or never knew you had.

I personally will be on this journey alongside our entire church family as we attend faithfully on the weekends and meet in our LIFE Group during the week and pray for LIFE Transformation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chuck Booker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Chuck
Senior Pastor, Crossroads Christian Church

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

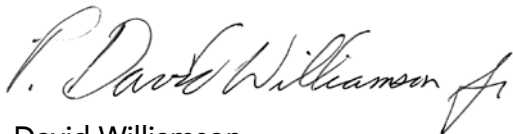
I cannot express enough thanks to our Sr. Pastor Chuck Booher and our Sr. Executive Pastor Galen Thomas for their continued support and encouragement as we strive to connect our congregation into healthy, growing, thriving, duplicating LIFE Groups that model Christ.

The completion of this project could not have been accomplished without the support of several of our Crossroads Church Team Members that helped put it all together: Mike Underwood, Edwin Dennis Jr. Michael Baker, Don Havenhill, Justin Corrales and David Roberts. Thank you for the time and effort that you put into helping this LIFE Group Study Guide get put together for our Fall Series.

I also want to thank our Crossroads Church Staff for all of their support in praying that everyone that wants to get connected into a LIFE Group this Fall will be able to. A special thanks to Brittini Acosta and Kristen Rodriguez for their input, creativity and effort in making sure that everything was completed on time.

Finally, to my awesome, loving, and supportive wife, Belinda: thank you for always being so honest and for cheering me on to do my best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. David Williamson Jr." in a cursive script.

David Williamson
Executive Pastor of LIFE Connections

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HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

Here is a brief explanation of the features of this study guide.

- **Kicking things off:** Open each meeting by briefly discussing a question or two that will help get everyone started with a fun question or to focus everyone's attention on the subject of the lesson.
- **Memory Verse:** Each week you will find a key Bible verse for your group to memorize together. If someone in the group has a different translation, ask them to read it aloud so the group can get a bigger picture of the passage.
- **Video Lesson:** There is a video lesson for the group to watch together each week. Follow along, take notes (if you wish) and refer back to the video during your discussing time.
- **Discovery Questions:** The discovery questions are based off of the weekend's message and a brief LIFE Group video segment for the LIFE Groups to capture some highlights from the weekend's message. Please don't feel pressured to discuss every single question. There is no reason to rush through the answers. Give everyone ample opportunity to share their thoughts. If you don't get through all the discovery questions, that's okay.
- **Putting It into Practice:** This section contains directions for you to grow in the areas of L.I.F.E. (Loving Like Jesus, Intentional Intimacy with God, Fully Surrendered, Experience More). This is where the rubber meets the road. We don't want to be just hearers of the Word. We also need to be doers of the Word (James 1:22).
- **Prayer Direction:** At the end of each session, you will find suggestions for your group prayer time. Praying together is one of the greatest privileges of a LIFE Group. Please don't take it for granted. Take time to ask each other how you can be praying for one another.
- **LIFE Group Resources:** There are additional LIFE Group resources, such as LIFE Group Guidelines, Tips for LIFE Group Leaders, LIFE Group Prayer and Praise Reports, etc., in the back of this study guide.

UNITY

YOUR FIRST MEETING

- If this is your group's first meeting, or if you have any new group members, be sure to introduce yourselves. Before you begin this study, review the LIFE Group Guidelines on page 41 of this study guide.
- Please don't feel pressured to discuss every discovery question. It's okay to choose the questions that are right for your group. The point is not to race through the session; the point is to take time to let God work in your lives.

KICKING IT OFF

- How does your family decide which restaurant to eat at?
 - What is your role in the process (do you) suggest, ignore, insist, act like you don't care or something else?
 - Does someone often "win" or "lose"? Is someone always complaining?
- What does the word "Unity" mean to you?
- What major thought, concept or idea that Pastor Chuck brought up during his message this past weekend caught your attention most? Why?

MEMORY VERSE

"I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me." John 17:23 NASB

WATCH THE VIDEO

Watch the video lesson now that goes along with the weekend message and then go through the discussion questions.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Read John 17:22–23. What evidence would Christ look for to see his prayer fulfilled?
2. Why do you think Christian Unity is so difficult to achieve?
3. What does the unity of the Church say about Christianity? What sort of a testimony does that display to the world?
4. When have you experienced Christian unity at its best? Describe what that the moment was like.
5. A symphony is a great illustration of Christian unity. Why would the two make a great metaphor? Read 1 Corinthians 12:12. Given what you know about a symphony, what does this say about what Christ meant?
6. Conflict is inevitable when people gather. In what ways might Christians resolve conflict in a God honoring manner? Consider Peter's follow up question in Matthew 18:21.

7. Read Ephesians 4:4–6. How many times does Paul use the word “one?” What is the significance of that number?
8. Read John 17:13–23. What did Jesus mean in verse 21? What conflicts exist in the Christian community worldwide? When these conflicts arise, both worldwide and within your own church, do you tend to run, fight, defend, hide, disappear or some other response? Is there a difference in your response when it occurs within your home church?
9. How can we help to strengthen unity in the Christian community worldwide? How about in the greater Corona area? On the Crossroads campus?
10. What do you think of the new vision Pastor Chuck shared with us this past weekend for our church? What can you do to fully embrace this in your home and personal life?

LIFE PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

- **Love Like Jesus**

Is there unity among your home, school or place of work? If not, choose an area where you see a lack of unity in your personal life and practice loving those you are at odds with as Christ would. Take note of how it impacts the unity in that setting.

- **Intentional Intimacy with God**

Spend time this week in conversation with God asking Him to show you ways in which you are not in unity with your church and/or your Christian brothers and sisters. Pray for clear direction and ways you can better align.

- **Fully Surrendered**

If our entire church congregation were using their time, talent and treasure to serve the bride of Christ, how would it impact the unity of Crossroads?

- **Experience More**

In an effort to see Christian brothers and sisters here at Crossroads and across the globe united, step out of your comfort zone this week to perform a random act of kindness or service.

PRAYER DIRECTION

We recommend that larger groups break into subgroups of three or four people for prayer. If you are a coed group, you might consider subgrouping by gender. This will give everyone ample time to share and pray together. If praying in a group is new or uncomfortable for you, we encourage you to start by praying single sentence prayers. Don't worry about how fancy you sound. God isn't looking for eloquence. He just wants honesty. Talk to God like you talk to a friend. Give everyone a chance to pray, but don't insist on it. Over time, you will all feel much more comfortable praying together.

- Pray for Unity in your home, your family, and your Church.
- Take time to share your prayer request with one another in your group.

DANGEROUS DECLARATIONS

KICKING IT OFF

- If you sat down next to Jesus on a bus, what would you talk about?
- What major thought, concept or idea that Pastor Chuck brought up during his message this past weekend caught your attention most? Why?

MEMORY VERSE

"But even if you should suffer for righteousness sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled," 1 Peter 3:14 ESV

WATCH THE VIDEO

Watch the video lesson now that goes along with the weekend message and then go through the discussion questions.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. If someone were to tell you the Bible is a dangerous book, would you agree or disagree? Why? What could make it dangerous?
2. Read Ephesians 2:10. What are we created for? Who determines what we are created for and when is the decision made? Knowing that, what are we capable of?
3. The saying goes – "stand for something or you'll fall for anything." What do you stand for? Read 1 Peter 3:13–17.
4. Read Acts 5:29 and Acts 4:18-20. Is this something we only see happening in the days of the Bible? How has this personally affected you? Our laws? Our schools? Our religious liberties & freedoms?
5. Read Daniel 3:16–18. When have you asked God for something (healing, deliverance or restoration) and not received it? What did that do to your faith? Look up scriptures in which God did not grant the healing or deliverance they were seeking and compare their reaction with your own. *Hint* Paul and Job.
6. Some people say "I'd die for some In-N-Out right now!! But would they really? No. What is something you truly would die for? Could anything (circumstances or feeling) change that? If so, what would cause you to sway?
7. According to the Supreme Court convictions must have 2 things: visibility and verbalization. Do your convictions meet those Criteria?

8. Define & differentiate the following words: Convenience, Preference and Conviction (use both the dictionary and Pastor Chuck's message). If you were to put each of the "convictions worth dying for" (listed below) into a category from above (convenience, preference and conviction) where would you put each? Does your lifestyle reflect that?
9. Read Psalm 15:2-4 emphasizing verse 4. Different translations read as "keep their promise even when it hurts" and "Keep your word even when it costs you." Share both a time when you kept a promise or vow despite what it cost and a time you didn't. Was there a difference in outcome based on your actions?
10. List the three most important people in your life. Once you've made your list, read Matthew 22:37-40. Does your list align with what this scripture says? Is there an area that needs adjustment?
11. We are living in the end times. It seems to be more and more often that we, as Christians, are asked to twist scriptures so that they will fit societal preferences. What is the danger of doing this? Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5. Have you ever left parts of scripture out to satisfy what others were wanting to hear? Share about it with your group.
12. Do you agree with the following Six Convictions worth Dying For? If not, what would you change?
 - a. We must obey God rather than men.
 - b. The Bible is God's word and our source of authority.
 - c. God's ways are always right.
 - d. Jesus is the only way to heaven
 - e. Marriage is a lifelong commitment between one man and one woman
 - f. God loves everyone and wants everyone to be saved.

LIFE PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

- **Love Like Jesus**

Is there unity among your home, school or place of work? If not, choose an area where you see a lack of unity in your personal life and practice loving those you are at ends with as Christ would. Take note of how it impacts the unity in that setting.

- **Intentional Intimacy with God**

Spend time this week in conversation with God asking Him to show you ways in which you are not in unity with your church and/or your Christian brothers and sisters. Pray for clear direction and ways you can better align.

- **Fully Surrendered**

If our entire church congregation were using their time, talent and treasure to serve the bride of Christ, how would it impact the unity of Crossroads?

- **Experience More**

In an effort to see Christian brothers and sisters here at Crossroads and across the globe united, step out of your comfort zone this week to perform a random act of kindness or service.

NEXT GEN LEADER

KICKING IT OFF

- What person in the Bible (besides Jesus) inspires you most? Why?
- What major thought, concept or idea that Pastor Chuck brought up during his message this past weekend caught your attention most? Why?

MEMORY VERSE

“Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12 EVS

WATCH THE VIDEO

Watch the video lesson now that goes along with the weekend message and then go through the discussion questions.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. What are the leadership principles you wish someone had shared with you when you were a young leader?
2. Can you name a person who has had a tremendous impact on you as a leader? Maybe someone who has been a mentor to you? Why and how did this person impact your life?
3. What are some of the most important decisions you make as a leader?
4. Of all that could be said about leadership, what must be conveyed to the next generation of leaders? Read 1 Timothy 4:6–16 for some ideas.
5. As an organization or ministry gets larger there can be a tendency for the “institution” to dampen the “inspiration.” How do you keep this from happening? How can you keep the “what” from overpowering the “why”?
6. How have you seen Crossroads get creative to reach the next generation? How can you personally get creative in reaching the next generation of leaders?
7. What are you doing personally to ensure you continue to grow and develop as a leader?
8. What is a behavior or traits you’ve seen derail a leaders’ organization or ministry? How can we safeguard ourselves from this trait? What about others? Read Proverbs 27:17.
9. What are a few resources you would recommend to someone looking to gain insight into becoming a better leader? Read 1 Timothy 3:1–5.
10. What do you think is the biggest challenge facing leaders today?
11. What advice would you give someone going into a leadership position for the first time? Read Joshua 1:7–9.

LIFE PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

- **Love Like Jesus**

It is a lot easier to go home and close the world out than it is to reach out to someone and offer your wisdom. Don't clock out and close the door. Seek out someone that you can share your faith and wisdom.

- **Intentional Intimacy with God**

When is the last time, if ever, you read through a book of the Bible? Start with a smaller book (like Jude, 1 & 2 Peter, James) and ask God to reveal himself to you as you read. There are only 27 books in the New Testament and 39 Old Testament.

- **Fully Surrendered**

Are you using any of your time, your talent or your treasure to reach the next generation? If not how could you make a great impact on the next generation by using your resources differently in those areas of your life?

- **Experience More**

Crossroads Church has Next Generation Ministries on Monday and Wednesday nights at 7pm and on Sunday at 11am-serving or attending any of these services is a great way to Experience More.

PRAYER DIRECTION

We recommend that larger groups break into subgroups of three or four people for prayer. If you are a coed group, you might consider subgrouping by gender. This will give everyone ample time to share and pray together. If praying in a group is new or uncomfortable for you, we encourage you to start by praying single sentence prayers. Don't worry about how fancy you sound. God isn't looking for eloquence. He just wants honesty. Talk to God like you talk to a friend. Give everyone a chance to pray, but don't insist on it. Over time, you will all feel much more comfortable praying together.

- Pray for our Next Generation.
- Pray for God to show you how and/or who you can be a mentor to. Mentoring others, in turn will help build and grow your own faith.
- You might try passing out pieces of paper and pens, then ask everyone to write down their prayer requests and have someone in the group type them out and email or group message them to the group for prayer that week.

24:7 IMITATOR

KICKING IT OFF

- As a kid, how did you learn best by reading about it, by listening, watching someone else do it, hands on (touching, building or making) or through another method?
 - What is your least favorite style of learning today?
- What major thought, concept or idea that Pastor Chuck brought up during his message this past weekend caught your attention most? Why?

MEMORY VERSE

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma”. Ephesians 5:1-2 NASB

WATCH THE VIDEO

Watch the video lesson now that goes along with the weekend message and then go through the discussion questions.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. What does “Asah Shamah” mean? Read Exodus 24:7.
2. Read John 8:31–32. What does “continue” in God’s word mean in this scripture? How does the action word of “continue” in the John passage relate to Exodus 24:7?
3. How do we become disciples? Use the John 8:31–32 passage above as well as Matthew 10:24-25 for reference.
4. What are “fruits” of our obedience? Read Luke 17:5–10, Jeremiah 33:3 and 1 Corinthians 2:9-10.
5. Re-read Exodus 24:7 and take note of the words used in the passage.
 - a. The scripture uses “all” when making reference to that which the Lord has spoken. When have you replaced “all” with “most of” or even “some”?
 - b. Share a time with your group when you lacked understanding but chose to obey God anyway. What was the result of your obedience? Did you gain understanding? If so, when?
6. What 4 practices can we do in our daily lives to truly be 24:7 Imitators? (Hint: L.I.F.E).
7. Is being a 24:7 Imitator too difficult in today’s society? Why or why not? Read Deuteronomy 30:11–20.
8. Being a 24:7 Imitator is a personal choice and one that is not too much for us to live up to. There are three motivators that help equip us for success. What are they? Read 1 John 5:3, 2 Timothy 1:7 and Philippians 4:13.

9. When we are 24:7 Imitators we will hear from God. Exodus 24:7 tells us that He speaks and we are to obey, but how do we know what He says is from Him and how do we hear it? Read 1 John 2:27 and 1 Kings 19:11–12 (multiple translations suggested).
10. What keeps you from being in God's word daily? What are you allowing to drown out His voice?

LIFE PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

- **Love Like Jesus**

This week intentionally imitate Christ for those closest to you (your kids, spouse, and friends). Read Galatians 5:22–23 to know what that would look like.

- **Intentional Intimacy with God**

Share with the group one thing that you learned this week from your quiet time with God.

- **Fully Surrendered**

How can you use your time, talent, and treasure more wisely if you truly are to be an imitator of Christ?

- **Experience More**

What has God been calling you to do lately that you have not been obedient in? This week, as He asks you to step out of your comfort zone- GO. Choose obedience over understanding.

PRAYER DIRECTION

We recommend that larger groups break into subgroups of three or four people for prayer. If you are a coed group, you might consider subgrouping by gender. This will give everyone ample time to share and pray together. If praying in a group is new or uncomfortable for you, we encourage you to start by praying single sentence prayers. Don't worry about how fancy you sound. God isn't looking for eloquence. He just wants honesty. Talk to God like you talk to a friend. Give everyone a chance to pray, but don't insist on it. Over time, you will all feel much more comfortable praying together.

- Pray that our church would be a congregation of 24:7 Imitators that have a ripple affect beyond our campus- locally, nationally and internationally.
- Ask for any Praise Reports from any of the previous prayer requests that were shared in the group and then ask for prayer requests for this week.

LOVE LIKE JESUS & INTENTIONAL INTIMACY

KICKING IT OFF

- What major thought, concept or idea that Pastor Chuck brought up during his message this past weekend caught your attention most? Why?
- When we started the Vision Series, did you think that 24:7 meant 24 hours a day 7 days a week? What do you now know it to mean?
 - o Review Exodus 24:7. What new insights did you gain this week into the concept of Asah Shamh (by doing we understand)?
 - o In “real life” we all learn better by doing, regardless of what the task is. Why do you think that it is a challenge for some to use that same concept in their spiritual life?

MEMORY VERSE

“But even if you should suffer for righteousness sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,” 1 Peter 3:14 ESV

WATCH THE VIDEO

Watch the video lesson now that goes along with the weekend message and then go through the discussion questions.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

LOVE LIKE JESUS

- By passionately worshiping God.
- By passionately praying before church and during the invitation.
- By loving the family of Crossroads the way Christ loves us.
- By loving my family, friends, and others the way Christ loves me.
- By participating in a place of Community (a LIFE Group).

1. What do you think was unique about the way that Jesus loved people? Read John 5:1–15 for reference. What can we learn from Jesus’ example in helping someone others don’t care to help? Identify someone in your life who others don’t care to help and overlook. Share with your group how you can help that person.
2. Read Galatians 6:10. Describe a time when you were able to show love to someone you didn’t care for who was in the “household of faith” (a Christian). Describe a time when you were able to show love and care for someone you didn’t care for who was not a Christian.
 - a. How did loving them when you didn’t care for either of them (the Christian and the non-Christian) change your heart in both or one of the situations?

3. Read the following scriptures and identify the principles in each that can help us to Love Like Jesus. Share with your group how you can apply each to your everyday way of life.
- James 4:7-8
 - 1 John 5:1-5
 - 2 Timothy 1:7
 - Philippians 4:13

INTENTIONAL INTIMACY

- By spending time with the Lord, praying, and reading His Word seven days a week.
- By asking each day, "God, how are You going to bless me and who can I show love to?"
- By writing down what God puts on my heart, how He blessed me, and who I showed love to.

4. Read 1 Kings 19:1–13. What events distracted Elijah from hearing God’s whisper?
5. What physically distracts you from hearing the whisper of God?
6. What distracts you spiritually?
7. Proverbs 15:22 speaks of having many counselors:
- a. What is the important point that King Solomon makes in Proverbs 8:34?
 - b. What is the important point that Jesus makes in Matthew 6:11?
 - c. How does James 4:8 fit into this picture?
 - d. Summarize what these three counselors are telling you to do. Why do you think it’s valuable to have multiple counselors?
8. Prior to this study, how often during the week did you personally and intentionally meet with Jesus? Has that changed during the course of this series of sermons?

LIFE PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

- **Love Like Jesus**

When is the last time that you were the recipient of unconditional love the way Jesus loves us? Offer this kind of love to a stranger this week by going out of your way to be nice or do something nice.

- **Intentional Intimacy with God**

Do you give God time in your day? Make an appointment with God and put it on your "Outlook Calendar" and see what happens. Hopefully it will become a recurring event daily.

- **Fully Surrendered**

One of the ways we can support the Vision and Mission of the Church is by tithing. If you are not currently tithing pray about surrendering the first part of your income each week to God in the form of a tithe. Why? Because God asks this of us. This also helps release the stronghold that money has on most of our lives and allows us to watch God bless us because of our faith in Him.

- **Experience More**

One of the ways that many have Experienced More is by going on a Mission trip. As Christians we eventually come to the realization that all followers of Jesus are on mission. Our everyday lives until we return home to be with the Lord are our mission fields. Pray about where your mission field would be in this season and be obedient to follow God's prompting- whether that is in your 9-5 job or overseas serving in a foreign land. Pray about it.

PRAYER DIRECTION

We recommend that larger groups break into subgroups of three or four people for prayer. If you are a coed group, you might consider subgrouping by gender. This will give everyone ample time to share and pray together. If praying in a group is new or uncomfortable for you, we encourage you to start by praying single sentence prayers. Don't worry about how fancy you sound. God isn't looking for eloquence. He just wants honesty. Talk to God like you talk to a friend. Give everyone a chance to pray, but don't insist on it. Over time, you will all feel much more comfortable praying together.

- Pray that God would help soften your heart so you can love others the way He loves us.
- Pray for consistency in spending time alone with God.
- Pray for each other in your LIFE Group.

FULLY SURRENDER & EXPERIENCE MORE

KICKING IT OFF

- Does your name have a special meaning and or were you named after someone special?
- What major thought, concept or idea that Pastor Chuck brought up during his message this past weekend caught your attention most? Why?

MEMORY VERSE

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me". Galatians 2:20 NASB

WATCH THE VIDEO

Watch the video lesson now that goes along with the weekend message and then go through the discussion questions.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

FULLY SURRENDERED

- By using my talent and time to serve God at Crossroads.
- By faithfully tithing.
- By giving an offering beyond my tithe sometime during the year.

1. Read Exodus 4:1–13.
 - a. Are you similar to or different from Moses when it comes to making yourself totally available to God?
 - b. If there is something holding you back from being totally available, how does Philippians 4:13 give you additional strength to move ahead?
2. Read Genesis 12:1–4. Notice the lack of detail God provided Abram about his future—"go forth." How much detail are you expecting from God for your current life?
3. Read 1 Kings 19:19–21. Before following Elijah, Elisha sacrificed his oxen and used the wood from the plow for the fire. What oxen and wood in your life do you need to surrender to God to have a closer walk with Him?
4. Read Isaiah 30:19–22.
 - a. In your tough times, how does God usually speak to you?
 - b. What in your life do you need to modify or delete so that you can hear God's direction more clearly?

EXPERIENCE MORE

- By serving out of my comfort zone at least two times in the next year.
- By fasting with the church during those times of fasting.
- By meditating on the key 24:7 concepts (LIFE) daily.
- By participating in a spiritual growth time (such as Leadership Matters).

5. Read Isaiah 6:8 and Romans 12:6–8
 - a. What do you think the relationship is between ability, availability, and willingness in serving God?
 - b. What are your spiritual gifts and are you productively using them? If you have not taken a spiritual gifts test before, come to the Growth Track on the third Sunday of the month at 9am in the London Institute to discover your gifts at 301?
6. Read Galatians 6:2 and 9–10. List practical ways you can “carry each other’s burdens” in your LIFE Group.
7. Based on James 1:12–18, what can we expect to receive from God and what are the prerequisites for receiving these gifts?
8. There are many “voices” out there competing for our attention. How does hearing these other voices prevent us from experiencing more of God and experiencing more of His blessings? How can we change things?

LIFE PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

- **Love Like Jesus**
Reach out to a family member or a friend this week that you feel could use encouragement.
- **Intentional Intimacy with God**
Share a verse that stood out to you this week in your daily devotional with the group.
- **Fully Surrendered**
During this coming week – evaluate how you spend your time, your talent, your treasure and then ask yourself do these three areas of my life represent my values and beliefs.
- **Experience More**
When is the last time you took a faith step? Accepting Christ, getting baptized, going to church, going through Growth Track, leading a LIFE Group, joining a LIFE Group, sharing your faith with another, using the gift(s) that God has given you for His Kingdom work? Never get complacent, fight against passivity.

CARE & OUTREACH

KICKING IT OFF

- If you sat down next to Jesus on a bus, what would you talk about?
- What major thought, concept or idea that Pastor Chuck brought up during his message this past weekend caught your attention most? Why?

MEMORY VERSE

“The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’” Matthew 25:40 NASB

WATCH THE VIDEO

Watch the video lesson now that goes along with the weekend message and then go through the discussion questions.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever “cared” (physically) for someone else? In what way? What lead you to care for that person?
2. Talk about a time when you volunteered in a local or global outreach? What impacted you the most? What did you learn about God? What did you learn about yourself?
3. Read Matthew 25:31–46. How can we as Christians live out each of the sentences below?

For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat;

I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink;

I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me;

I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’

4. How can the body of Christ (The Church) live out what we learn in Matthew 25:31–46?
5. What specific groups of people has God asked us to care for? Read James 1:27, Psalm 146:9 and Matthew 25:35–36.
6. Read Luke 4:18–21. How is the Church today continuing the vision that Jesus proclaimed in this passage?
7. Do you believe that every believer is called to a life service or just some? How are you serving God today? When will that time of service end for you? Read 1 Peter 1:12, Malachi 3:17–18, John 12:26 and Romans 12:10–11.
8. Read 2 Corinthians 5:19–20 and Matthew 28:18–20. What are these two passages asking us to do as Christians? What barriers (if any) are keeping you from being the “Ambassador” that God has called you to be?

LIFE PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

- **Love Like Jesus**
Throw a party for those who have blessed you in the past...
- **Intentional Intimacy with God**
Share with your LIFE Group how you have grown since starting the Crossroads Church Devotional this fall.
- **Fully Surrendered**
It is a blessing when receiving a gift from another, look for a way to anonymously bless someone else or give a gift in the name of Jesus to someone in need.
- **Experience More**
Connect with our GO (Global Outreach) team at Crossroads Church to see what local and global outreach projects your LIFE Group can do together. There are weekly ministries that your group can be involved with if you choose. We want the light of Christ to be seen throughout our city through the good works that God has prepared in advance for us to do.

PRAYER DIRECTION

We recommend that larger groups break into subgroups of three or four people for prayer. If you are a coed group, you might consider subgrouping by gender. This will give everyone ample time to share and pray together. If praying in a group is new or uncomfortable for you, we encourage you to start by praying single sentence prayers. Don't worry about how fancy you sound. God isn't looking for eloquence. He just wants honesty. Talk to God like you talk to a friend. Give everyone a chance to pray, but don't insist on it. Over time, you will all feel much more comfortable praying together.

- Pray for God to break your heart for what breaks His, to have eyes to see those that are overlooked.
- Ask each person in your group how you can pray and care for one another this week.

PRAYER & WORSHIP

KICKING IT OFF

- Who was your favorite music group in High School?
- What part of Pastor Chuck's message most impacted you ... surprised you ... or blessed you this past weekend?

MEMORY VERSE

"For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth." John 4:24 NLT

WATCH THE VIDEO

Watch the video lesson now that goes along with the weekend message and then go through the discussion questions.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Once, when interviewed, Mother Teresa was asked: "When you pray, what do you say to God? She said, "I don't talk, I listen." The interviewer then asked: "What does God say to you?" Mother Teresa replied, "He doesn't talk. He listens." With the interviewer unsure as to what to say next, Mother Theresa added, "and if you don't understand that, I can't explain it to you."
 - a. How do you think she came to that conclusion? What would it look like if two people just sat and listened for each other, and neither spoke?
2. What are some of the ways that God speaks to us today? Read 2 Timothy 3:16–17, Hebrews 1:1–2, John 10:27, Romans 1:20 and Numbers 22:28.
3. If God is truly sovereign and omniscient, why should Christians have to pray? Read Matthew 6:7–8 and James 4:2.
4. What is really happening when God does not seem to be answering your prayer(s)? Hint: Could it be a matter over "wills" or even that he is waiting on you to learn something or do something. Did God answer Jesus's prayer in Luke 22:42?
5. As a kid- what were you taught about what the Bible says about prayer? What does the Bible say about prayer? Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18.
6. What are some common methods of worship? Read Psalm 100:1–2, see also James 5:13 and Colossians 3:16–17.
7. In what ways is large group worship the same and different from individual worship?
8. Does God approve of some forms of worship over other forms? What is the difference? Read Psalm 100:1–5

9. In many church traditions, worship is manifested primarily by song or voice. What other forms of worship are more or less common? What forms of worship have you or do you practiced?
10. What do you think God sees as the heart of worship?
11. In what ways is prayer like worship? And worship like prayer?
12. How can you offer your life up to God as a form of Worship? Read Romans 12:1–2.

LIFE PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

- **Love Like Jesus**
Extend a kind word or a helping hand to someone this week that others might say is not worthy.
- **Intentional Intimacy with God**
Be intentional this week to worship God throughout your week not just on the weekend with several of the ways you discussed in this study.
- **Fully Surrendered**
What areas in your life could possibly be blocking your prayers from being heard by God (habits, un-forgiveness, selfish heart, alignment)? Seek out (hopefully someone in your LIFE Group) a prayer partner/accountability partner to help you through this.
- **Experience More**
Take an intentional step to Worship God with your body (word and deeds) this week and see what a difference it makes in your daily routine.

PRAYER DIRECTION

We recommend that larger groups break into subgroups of three or four people for prayer. If you are a coed group, you might consider subgrouping by gender. This will give everyone ample time to share and pray together. If praying in a group is new or uncomfortable for you, we encourage you to start by praying single sentence prayers. Don't worry about how fancy you sound. God isn't looking for eloquence. He just wants honesty. Talk to God like you talk to a friend. Give everyone a chance to pray, but don't insist on it. Over time, you will all feel much more comfortable praying together.

- Pray today for God to give you a heart of worship towards Him.
- Pray in such a way that you honestly believe that God is listening, knowing that He is hearing your prayer and that He loves you.
- Ask each person in your group how you might pray for them this week.

TIPS FOR LIFE GROUP LEADERSHIP

TOP TEN IDEAS FOR NEW LIFE GROUP LEADERS

CONGRATULATIONS! As the leader of your LIFE Group, you have responded to the call to help shepherd Jesus' flock. Few other tasks in the family of God surpass the contribution you will be making. As you prepare to lead your LIFE Group, here are a few thoughts to keep in mind.

1. Remember you are not alone. God knows everything about you, and He knew you would be asked to lead your LIFE Group. Even though you may not feel ready, this is common for all good LIFE Group Leaders. Remember this motto that is so true throughout scripture: God does not call the equipped; He equips the called.
2. Don't try to do it alone. Pray right now for God to help you build a healthy team. If you can enlist a co-leader to help you shepherd the group, you will find your experience much richer. This is your chance to involve as many people as you can in building a healthy group. All you have to do is ask people to help. You'll be surprised at the response.
3. Be friendly and be yourself. God wants to use your unique gifts and temperament. Be sure to greet people at the door with a big smile, this can set the mood for the whole gathering. Remember, they are taking as big a step by showing up to your LIFE Group as you are by leading the LIFE Group. Don't try and do things like another leader; do them in a way that fits you. Admit when you don't have an answer and apologize when you make a mistake. Your group will love you for it and you will sleep better at night.
4. Prepare for your meeting ahead of time. Preview the session and write down your responses to each question.
5. Pray for your group members by name. Before your group arrives, take a few moments to pray for each member by name. You may want to review the LIFE Group Prayer and Praise Report at least once a week. Ask God to use your time together to touch the heart of each person in your group. Expect God to lead you to whomever he wants you to encourage or challenge in a special way. If you listen, God will surely lead.
6. When you ask a question, be patient. Someone will eventually respond. Don't be the one to offer up the first answer for every question. Praise people for offering up answers to the questions like "Great answer", "Very Insightful". Pay attention to those in the group who never respond, but try not to make anyone uncomfortable that isn't ready to say or do more just yet. Look for opportunities to help them grow.
7. Provide transitions between questions. Ask if anyone would like to read the question or Bible passage. Don't call on anyone, but ask for a volunteer, and then be patient until someone begins. Be sure to thank the person who reads aloud.
8. Break into smaller groups occasionally. With a greater opportunity to talk in a small circle, people will connect more with the study, apply more quickly what they're learning, and ultimately get more out of their LIFE Group experience. A small circle also encourages a quiet person to participate and tends to minimize the effects of a more vocal or dominant member. Small Circles are also helpful during prayer time for everyone's prayer request to be shared and prayed over.
9. Smaller circles or sub-grouping as it is called is also a great way to raise up future leaders within the group. Sub-grouping can be done in many ways: If you have a mixed gender group it is good to subgroup now and then by gender so the men and women can go deeper. Or put everyone's name in a hat and pull out 3-4 names and that is the sub-group for that week.
10. Remember you are to facilitate your LIFE Group not be the teacher of your LIFE Group. You might occasionally ask someone else to lead (facilitate) the group or even try a different host home so others can share ownership

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW LONG WILL THIS GROUP MEET?

This study is eight sessions long. We encourage your group to add a ninth session for celebration. In your final session, each group member may decide if he or she desires to continue on for another study. At that time you may also want to do some informal evaluation, discuss your LIFE Group Guidelines (See page 41), and decide which study you want to do next. We recommend you visit our website at www.crossroadschurch.com for some ideas on what to study next located under Ministries and then LIFE Group Resources.

WHO IS THE LIFE GROUP LEADER?

Identified as the one who takes the lead in helping to create an environment where transformation can happen.

WHAT IS A LIFE GROUP?

A group of 3-12 people who gather at least twice a month (preferably weekly) with an identified leader for the purpose of becoming a 24:7 disciple of Jesus Christ.

WHERE DO WE FIND NEW GROUP MEMBERS?

Inviting new members can be a challenge for groups, especially new groups with just a few people, or existing group that lose a few people along the way. We encourage you to make a list and encourage others in your group to make a list of those you are in relational proximity with: family, friends, co-work, church friends and family, gym partners, etc. and then pray over your list and extend a personal invitation. If too many decide to join your group, rejoice and praise God for using you in such a mighty way and work on the subgrouping to raise up additional leaders.

HOW TO HANDLE CHILD CARE NEEDS IN YOUR LIFE GROUP?

Child care needs must be handled very carefully. This is a sensitive issue. We suggest you seek creative solutions as a group. One common solution is to have the adults meet in the living room and share the cost of a baby sitter (or two) who can be with the kids in another part of the house. Another popular option is to have one home for the kids and a second home (close by) for the adults. If desired, the adults could rotate the responsibility of providing a lesson for the kids. This last option is great with school age kids and can be a huge blessing for families.

WHERE SHOULD THE LIFE GROUP MEET?

Pick an environment that is conducive for authenticity, honesty, free from distraction where people can hear and be heard, an environment where people can count on and a place where transformation can happen through the power of the Holy Spirit.

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINES

It's a good idea for every group to put words to their shared values, expectations, and commitments. Such guidelines will help you avoid unspoken agendas and unmet expectations. We recommend you discuss your guidelines during Session One in order to lay the foundation for a healthy group experience. Feel free to modify anything that does not work for your group.

We agree to the following values:

- CLEAR PURPOSE To create an environment where experiencing LIFE together causes transformation.

- GROUP ATTENDANCE To give priority to the group meeting (call if I am going to miss or be late).

- SAFE ENVIRONMENT To create a safe environment where people can be heard and feel loved (no quick answers, snap judgements, or simple fixes).

- BE CONFIDENTIAL To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group.

- CONFLICT RESOLUTION To avoid gossip and to immediately resolve any concerns by following the principles of Matthew 18:15–17.

- SPIRITUAL HEALTH To give group members permission to speak into my life and help me live a healthy, balanced spiritual life that is pleasing to God.

- LIMIT YOUR FREEDOM By not causing another brother or sister to stumble in any way that is not pleasing to God.

- WELCOME NEWCOMERS To invite friends who might benefit from this study and warmly welcome newcomers.

- BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS To get to know the other members of the group and pray for them regularly.

- OTHER

LIFE GROUP ROSTER

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