

LifeGroup Time Guide

This LifeGroup Guide is intended to help our LifeGroups establish consistent practices of (1) reflecting on and sharing our spiritual lives, (2) praying & working together as Christ's witnesses, (3) discussing and applying God's Word to our lives, and (4) actively fighting against sin together. We believe that being consistent with these practices will help us grow and mature as disciples.

1. God Sightings & Spiritual Practices: (30 Minutes)

Purpose: This section is designed to help us **reflect** on our past week through a Godward lense and **share** with the group how our week has been from that Godward perspective.

Note: *This is not a time to simply share how your day or week has gone. Rather, it is a time to update each other on either how you have been seeking Jesus and/or what Jesus has been doing in your life.*

To help you think of what you can share, if its helpful, you can simply choose to answer one of these questions:

- What has my prayer life looked like during the last week?
- Have I meditated on God's Word by reading the bible, doing a personal devotional, listening to sermons, or in any other way?
- How have I seen God answer prayer in the last week?
- How have I seen God at work in me and around me in the last week?

2. Review the Mission: (10-20 Minutes)

Colossians 4:3 *At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ,*

Purpose: This section is designed to help us **pray** and **plan** for God to work through us

and our church as we join Him in His mission.

We are witnesses of Christ's goodness and love. We review the mission each week so we can collectively join Jesus in His mission as we follow Him together.

PRAY

We will be using "Review the Mission" time this week to pray for the Young Life: Downtown Columbia Ministry, a ministry that significantly contributed to our 10 year anniversary celebration this weekend.

This outreach ministry is led by a combination of staff from Young Life, adult volunteers from the Columbia community, and students from the University of South Carolina and Columbia International University. Mentors (referred to as "Leaders") are split into teams that serve adolescents and young adults at Eau Claire High School, Keenan High School, and the University of South Carolina. You might recall that at the end of July, the "Review the Mission" section prompted us to celebrate 18 high school students from the Young Life ministry saying "yes" to Jesus. More fruit of the ministry was put on display this weekend as two high schoolers impacted by the ministry were baptized during Two Notch Service on Sunday.

At the beginning of August, the individuals in charge of each team (referred to as "Team Leaders") came together to share their prayers for each ministry team this fall. Their ministry efforts continue to not only have a direct impact on our general community, but also specifically on Midtown Two Notch. Please use this [link](#) to find prayer requests from the Young Life: Downtown Columbia Team Leaders

PLAN

Are there any rhythms we can plan that can help us share the love of Christ with someone we've prayed for during Review The Mission?

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Prayer Walking together as a LifeGroup
- Visiting BCM together to spend time with Benedict College students
- Church Outreach Events
- Planning something fun/enjoyable to do together that you want to invite people to

3. Bible Study & Sermon Discussion: (20-40 Minutes)

Purpose: The purpose of this section is help LifeGroup Members grow as followers of Jesus by weekly (1) **utilizing a bible study method** that LifeGroup members can utilize in their own time and (2) **discussing the application** of the preached Word of God.

Pray that God would open your hearts and eyes to His truth and that He would make this time fruitful, encouraging, and transformative.

Read the text: Matthew 18:18-20

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 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 all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Bible Study

Note: *We ask the same three questions each week during Bible Study time to help our LifeGroups discuss God's Word and to help you have a method of studying the bible that you can practice in your daily life as you read and meditate on God's Word.*

Spend some time silently reflecting and journaling the following questions as a LifeGroup:

1. What stands out from the passage?
2. What does this passage reveal to us about God?
3. What does this passage reveal to us about people?

Share with one another what you thought, reflected, and wrote about.

Sermon Discussion:

Note: *These questions are intended to help us consider and apply the preached word of God to our lives. We value this discussion time because when we share with others what God is showing us, it helps us encourage each other through God's Word.*

1. What was said in the sermon that was beneficial for you?

2. Is there anyone in your life that you would love to see place faith in Christ but you've given up on praying for them and trying to share Christ with them? What has caused you to give up?
3. How do the statements that Jesus makes about Himself in verses 18 & 20 encourage us to continue joining Him in His mission instead of giving up?

4. Engage the Heart: (20-40 Minutes)

Purpose: This section is designed to help us grow as followers of Jesus through the biblical practices of (1) confessing sin, (2) Encouraging one another in the truth of God's Word, and (3) praying for each other.

Hebrews 3:12-13 *Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. 13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*

Proverbs 28:13 *One who conceals his wrongdoings will not prosper, but one who confesses and abandons them will find compassion.*

Use this time to:

1. Confess sin in your life and victories over temptation that you've experienced
2. Encourage, exhort, and admonish each other with the Word of God
3. Pray for each other

If you are having difficulty thinking of what you can confess, consider the questions below:

- Where have you been yielding to sin in your life?
- What are you struggling to trust God with this week? How can you give God control of it?
- Has the Holy Spirit been prompting you to do anything that you've been resisting?
- What steps do you need to take to obey God?

Use this [link](#) to access a resource you can use to find scriptures for encouraging each other in various areas of sin and unbelief in your lives. There is also a video provided to help you use this resource.

