

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

EZ Ministries is a ministry that our church partners with through financial support and prayer. Use this [link](#) to find monthly prayer prompts provided by staff and volunteers at EZ Ministries. Please choose three of the prayer prompts provided as you pray for EZ Ministries. You can find more information about EZ Ministries [here](#).

PLAN

Discuss as a LifeGroup whether or not you can do one of the following:

- Planning something fun/enjoyable to do together that you want to invite people to
- Attending Family Game Night on December 8th at 7pm and inviting someone who doesn't regularly attend a church service. If this is something you are interested in doing, please take time right now to discuss how you might intentionally welcome the people you mentioned inviting last week.

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:

Isaiah 65:17-25

17 "For I will create new heavens and a new earth; the past events will not be remembered or come to mind. 18 Then be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I will create Jerusalem to be a joy and its people to be a delight. 19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad

in my people. The sound of weeping and crying will no longer be heard in her. 20 In her, a nursing infant will no longer live only a few days or an old man not live out his days. Indeed, the one who dies at a hundred years old will be mourned as a young man, and the one who misses a hundred years will be considered cursed. 21 People will build houses and live in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. 22 They will not build and others live in them; they will not plant and others eat. For my people's lives will be like the lifetime of a tree. My chosen ones will fully enjoy the work of their hands. 23 They will not labor without success or bear children destined for disaster, for they will be a people blessed by the Lord along with their descendants. 24 Even before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear. 25 The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like cattle, but the serpent's food will be dust! They will not do what is evil or destroy on my entire holy mountain," says the Lord.

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. In the sermon, it was said that we live in a world of weeping. Share with the group something that is currently causing you to experience grief and/or weeping. Pray for each other if anyone requests prayer.
3. Share with the group what you're really looking forward to about the new heavens and the new earth. Feel free to share multiple things that you're looking forward to.

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

Questions to consider:

- 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.

