

# 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**

Use this link to find prayer prompts related to the Young Life: Downtown Columbia Ministry (an Outreach Ministry that our church partners with through financial support and prayer) and the students across Columbia that have been impacted by ministry efforts. You can find the prompts by using this [link](#)

## **PLAN**

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

- Prayer walking together as a lifegroup on Dec 17th (the last formal prayer walk of 2023). If your lifegroup is interested in prayer walking please notify Executive Minister Dom Francis at [dfrancis@midtowncolumbia.com](mailto:dfrancis@midtowncolumbia.com)
- 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:**

#### ***Luke 2:8-12***

*8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And*

*this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”*

### **Philippians 4:4-9**

*4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness[a] be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned[b] and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*

## **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. Set a timer for 5 minutes. During that time write down as many things as you can think of that fit the descriptions in Philippians 4:8. After the 5 minutes, have a few people pray prayers of thanksgiving for some of the things on their list.
3. Read Philippians 4:6. Set a timer for 3 minutes. In that time, write down things that can cause you to feel anxious. After the 3 minutes, have a few people pray to surrender some of the cares that they wrote down to God.

## 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.