

LifeGroup Time Guide

1. Catch Up On Life:

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, consider the following 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, or by listening to sermons?
- 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?

Pray: Take this opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives, and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain and difficulty.

2. Review the Mission:

We've learned that Jesus is reconciling all things to Himself through the blood of His cross. He has made us His ambassadors and given us the ministry of reconciliation. Thus, we join Him daily on His mission (Colossians 1:15-20, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Matthew 28:18-20).

- Reactive: Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?

- Proactive - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (neighbors, STC partner organizations, or a specific demographic in Columbia)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve, and build relationships with this group?
- Are there any rhythms already planned, or an extra rhythm we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?

Pray: Let's pray for our people by name. Pray for their needs and the power, wisdom, and boldness of the Holy Spirit to have spiritual conversations that help them take the next steps toward Jesus.

3. Bible Study & Sermon Discussion

We are dependent upon the Holy Spirit to use the Word of God to transform us. Pray that He would open our eyes to the truth of His Word and that God would change us as we study this text together.

Pray: Thank God for the revelation and comfort of His Word through the Holy Spirit. Pray that He makes this time fruitful, with His Word taking root in our hearts.

Read the text: Luke 1:46-56

Bible Study

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

- What stands out from the passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about God?
- What does this passage reveal to us about people?

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

Sermon Discussion:

1. What was said in the sermon on Sunday that was beneficial for you?
2. In the passage, we see that God looks favorably upon Mary's humility and lowliness. What keeps you from being humble and seeing your lowliness? How specifically have you seen your pride get in the way?
3. In the passage, we see that, despite Mary's fear, she chooses to worship God and trust His promises. What areas in your life do you find it difficult to trust in God? What promises from Scripture do you need to cling to in those moments?

4. Engage the Heart:

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)

Pray: Close your time together by praying for the following:

- Pray for the Spirit to work in you as you take steps of repentance
- Pray for God to meet the needs of those in your group
- Pray for the sick and vulnerable

Keeping In Touch: Keep in touch with each other through smaller groups this week. Be sure to check in with each other. Be intentional to ask Godward questions like the following when you catch up:

- 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?