

CATALYST CHURCH

LEADER'S GUIDE

ACTS: THIS IS HOW WE CHANGE THE WORLD

Welcome back to the second week of the Winter session of the 2024 season of Life Group! This second week will also have fewer questions than normal but more than last week. If your group hasn't filled up yet treat this week like the last one. Take time in the beginning of the the meeting to catch up with returning group members and get to know new ones. Take some extra time to connect when everyone comes in or at the table around some food or beverages and some light snacks. Do your best to make everyone feel included. If you didn't get a chance to see last week's Leader's Guide you can find it in the Resources tab of the Church Center Planning app. It has some pretty good tips and ideas to make your first few weeks of meeting with your members have a better chance of success. This first impression could make the difference for whether or not your new members return - Put your best foot forward & make it count!

SCRIPTURE IS OUR AUTHORITY //

This week there were 64 baptisms! 64 People people who committed their life to Jesus Christ in an outward expression of their inner faith. If they're in your Life Group, make sure to celebrate them. Let them know how proud of them you and the group are and especially how proud God is of them for their obedience. Remind them of God's response to Jesus when Jesus was baptized in Matthew 3:16-17. "As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

WE ARE SAVED TO SERVE //

You may think it's early but try to start a conversation about what your group's service project might be for this session of Life Group. Many people join a group not only to make friends and learn more about Jesus, they also want to get involved with their community and contribute to the greater good by being His hands and feet.

Catalyst Church has a partnership with nine local organizations. Each of them has a unique mission that your group members may connect with. For more information go to www.catalystchurch.com/missions. For your information and convenience, here are the Local Mission Partners:

- [Children Healthy Eating on Weekends \(CHEW\)](#)
- [Fellowship of Christian Athletes](#)
- [Hope First](#)
- [Kennedy Home \(Baptist Children's Home of NC\)](#)

- [Military Fellowship Center](#)
- [Onslow Community Outreach](#)
- [Philippians Place Ministries](#)
- [True Justice](#)
- [Warrior Sanctuary](#)

Another way to serve locally is through Catalyst Church. There are so many ways you can serve to help create an amazing experience for others. It can range anywhere from being outside welcoming guests in the parking lot to being behind the scenes serving with the Worship Team and even watching children in the Youth Ministry so parents can enjoy their worship experience. There are so many other opportunities besides these.

For more information go to www.catalystchurch.com/serving.

THE UNREACHED IS OUR PRIORITY //

This Sunday Feb. 11th, the first Mission Trip to Honduras left. They will return on Monday Feb. 19th. Please take some time with your group to pray for their week-long trip as they build a home for a Honduran family, as they spread the Good News of Jesus, pray and their safe return. There will be two additional trips this year if you're interested in serving abroad.

For more information visit www.catalystchurch.com/missions.

TRANSFORMATION HAPPENS IN CIRCLES //

THIS IS HOW YOU MIGHT MEASURE SUCCESS FROM WEEK-TO-WEEK: DO YOUR BEST TO TRY AND HEAR FROM EVERYONE.

- If food is being included in the group time, try to make sure it's free from being too spicy (sorry, that one's for me), or that it doesn't contain an ingredient that could pose a danger to someone in the group who has food allergies.
- Try to have a place where everyone can put their coats and bags down so they're not being squished between everyone sitting down or at their feet.
- Great lighting and maybe some instrumental music could help make the atmosphere more inviting.
- Pets should not be the first encounter your guests have when it's their first time in your home. Consider keeping your fur-babies in a closed-door room until your members feel they are ready to meet them. This may take a few meetings. Do your best not to push your pets on them. You never know who's had a bad history with animals or has allergies to them and may be afraid to say something in a public setting.
- Work the room and make it a point to speak with everyone, especially your newest members. Make a connection even if it seems small. They want to feel like they "fit in" and can learn to trust you just as much as your most seasoned member.
- At the end of group time, thank everyone for coming and refer to them by name as much as possible. It's the little things that make a BIG difference.

BOOK OF ACTS // WEEK 20

TELLING GOD STORIES

Jason Brinker - 2/11/24

GROWING TOGETHER

What movie would you love to watch again but for the first time?

AND/OR

Who's the best story-teller you know and what makes them so good at it? If it's you, share a great story with your Life Group.

AND/OR

Where's the farthest place you've traveled? Was it for business or recreation?

GROWING WITH GOD

Read [Acts 1:8](#), [Acts 13:1-4](#), [Acts 13:13-39](#), [Ephesians 2:10](#), & [1 Corinthians 9:20-22](#) aloud and go over your sermon notes with one another. (Answer all or some of the questions)

Acts chapter 13 talk about how Paul and Barnabas were called upon by the Holy Spirit to evangelize to Jews and Gentiles. Their travels took them to several cities along the way to spread the Gospel until they ended up in Pisidia Antioch, which, today is known as Turkey. Pastor Jason tells us that they didn't know where they were going after each leg of the trip except that the Holy Spirit would lead them - that's exactly what happened.

- **Have you ever been led by the Holy Spirit to go somewhere or do something but didn't have any idea where that place was or what you were supposed to do?**
- **Did you listen and obey?**
- **What was the result of your action?**

Paul begins his message in verse 16 to the Jews and Gentiles, not by condemning them for their actions, but by addressing them in a manner fitting for who they are, followers of God. God gave Paul an opportunity to share the gospel. He chose to share it in a way that listeners would be able to receive it by meeting them where they were at spiritually and not where he wanted them to be.

- **Has there been a time when you told someone about Jesus but the message got lost in the delivery?**
- **If you could go back to that moment, what would you have said or done differently?**
- **If you've never had the opportunity to share the message of Jesus Christ and how they can have a relationship with God, how would you do it today?**

GROWING IN OBEDIENCE & SCRIPTURE

At the beginning of this Acts series, Pastor Jason asked us to pray for one person. Specifically, he said,

“And I want to challenge you right now to write down one person’s name that you are going to start praying for. Your prayer is that God in His grace would save them. And that God would give you the opportunity to point them to Jesus and love them into a growing relationship with Jesus. Whose Your ONE? Pray for them and then look for the opportunities to intentionally point them to Jesus. That might be by: inviting them to Catalyst with you, inviting them to your Life Group, and sharing your story. Church people call that a testimony. Every testimony has three parts: 1) My life before Jesus, 2) How I came to trust in Jesus, 3) This is how Jesus has changed my life.”

Ask yourself how that person’s life has been affected by you sharing the gospel with them. If it’s been a while since you’ve shared God with them or prayed for them, maybe it’s time to gently, lovingly, and gracefully have another conversation and share why you have the hope in Christ that you do.

Remember this from this week’s message:

- The Apostles looked for God opportunities.
- When God opens the door, walk through it and meet people where they are.
- Tell them the God story.
- Tell them how they can have a relationship with God.

GROWING WITH CATALYST PEOPLE

Be sure to follow Catalyst Church on all the major social media platforms for the latest information and words of encouragement.



