

# CATALYST CHURCH

## LEADER GUIDE

### *ACTS: THIS IS HOW WE CHANGE THE WORLD*

As we enter Week 3 of the Life Group session I wanna tell you, the Leaders and Hosts, what a great job you're doing. Without you being obedient to God and taking the steps to disciple others, there wouldn't be Life Groups within Catalyst Church. You all are crushing it! With that being said, some of you may be feeling a little discouraged from a not-so-strong showing for the first two weeks. Remember, these things take time. It's a BIG challenge to ask someone to go from the safety and anonymity of the church rows to the unfamiliar and potential microscopic attention of a Life Group circle. Be patient with your members and visitors. Sometimes they don't show up when they said, "I'll be there."

If you believe they will show up, great! But, if you're getting the feeling that their level of commitment is not what you asked them to commit to, don't be afraid to reach out to them. Ask them if this season-of-life they're in is good for being part of a Life Group. If it's not, pray for them, let them when they're ready and their schedule allows, they can reach out to you to have a conversation about joining again. This conversation can do a few of things:

1. It gives the person the permission to leave the group without feeling like they're quitting and saving their dignity.
2. It gives them time to reconnect with God and ask Him if this is what He wants them to do right now.
3. It allows you to focus more of your attention and discipleship efforts on the members that are able to attend consistently.
4. It opens up the group (if that's what you want) to other people hoping to join a community of believers.

Melissa Alford and I are here to support your effort, however we can, in a way that best works for you.

### **WE RAISE UP TO SEND OUT //**

We recently had our students and kids begin signing up for Summer Camp. This is a big part of our Catalyst Kids and Student Ministry and this year we have more children requesting scholarships than ever before. We want to make sure as many can go to summer camp as possible. If you would like to help a child go to camp you can do it two different ways 1) [catalystchurch.com/give](https://catalystchurch.com/give), 2) go on your church center app and select either the [Catalyst Kids Camp 2024](#), [Catalyst Students Summer Camp](#), (or both) to donate.

## **WE ARE SAVED TO SERVE //**

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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](http://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 church experience. There are so many other opportunities besides these.

For more information go to [www.catalystchurch.com/serving](http://www.catalystchurch.com/serving).

## **THE UNREACHED IS OUR PRIORITY //**

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This Monday Feb. 19th, the first Mission Trip of 2024 to Honduras will have returned. If you or anyone you know wants to be part of the next mission trip. Click [here](#) for more information or visit <http://www.catalystchurch.com/missions>.

# BOOK OF ACTS // WEEK 21

## *TALES FOR A PAGAN WORLD*

Jason Brinker - 02/18/24

### *GROWING TOGETHER*

Talk about a time when you had something really important to say even though it was unpopular. It might have been at work, at a friend or family member's house, maybe even at church. How was it received and what did you do when you heard and saw their opposition to it?

### *GROWING WITH GOD*

Read [Acts 13:49-52](#) & [Acts 14:1-28](#) aloud and go over your sermon notes with one another. (Answer all or some of the questions)

Pastor Jason talked about how the gospel was shared differently with the Jews versus the Gentiles. In [1 Corinthians 9:19-23](#), Paul is essentially saying that every time he stepped into a circle of people who were distinctively different, he changed his approach without compromising the gospel or his identity in Christ. His starting point with them was their starting point.

- **Share a time when you knew that sharing the gospel with someone required you to change the approach you were comfortable with. Did you pray before you jumped in?**

Given today's culture wars and influences, we should not be surprised that people take up interest in a variety of pagan practices. Maybe you have friends, family, or co-workers who practice one or more pagan religions or disciplines. Share what you have learned as you have found yourself in their space.

- **When conversations about spiritual beliefs take place do they become emotionally charged and argumentative or do they engage in a respectful manner in the spirit of sharing information?**

Pastor Jason's message is about Paul & Barnabas and the stories of how God used them to spread the gospel on their missionary journey. Perhaps you have not gone on a mission trip outside of your community...yet.

- **If you have, share what that experience was like for you and/or others who accompanied you. If you haven't, what does your mission field look like here and now? Try describing it using the lenses of environment, attitude, opportunity, & culture, to name a few.**

“Following Jesus, living a Gospel-focused life in a pagan world is hard. It’s hard work.” Many of us can agree with that statement made by Pastor Jason.

- **What makes it challenging for you to live a ‘Gospel-focused life’?**
- **How can the church, and/or your Life Group help you in that effort?**

[Tim Keller](#) said, “How do you show people they need Christ if they don’t believe in a God of judgement, they don’t feel guilty before that God, they don’t believe in heaven or hell? How do you show people they need Jesus when they don’t recognize an authority greater than themselves? We’ve all spoken to someone who does not accept the authority of the Bible. We know they need to hear God’s words, but they don’t want to, at least through a biblical lens.

- **What’s your approach with them?**
- **How is it different depending on where they’re at in their life’s journey?**

Paul and Barnabas’ first mission was filled with difficulties. While they were not all mentioned, some of them were; long-travel, people who believed in idolatry, belief in false gods, the people didn’t want them to stay in their cities, etc. Even in the face of this opposition, they continued with their mission trip.

- **What resonated with you the most about this mission trip?**
- **How do you think you would have reacted if you were faced with the challenges they faced?**
- **Would you have been as determined as they were or would you have taken a different approach?**

# GROWING IN OBEDIENCE & SCRIPTURE

Pastor Jason made a statement and followed it with a question we should ask ourselves periodically. The statement he made was, “Everybody lives for something”. He also gave us several examples of potential idols we all have the tendency to put in first place from time-to-time. Some of the examples he gave were comfort and ease, money, career, and pleasure. There are many more that we could add to this list. Pastor Jason’s follow-up question was, “What are you living for?” He told us that whatever that is, that’s what’s controlling us. Take some time this week to pray by yourself, with your accountability partner, or your Life Group. Pray about how you will surrender whatever it is may be controlling your life and ask Jesus to intervene.

Reach out to one another throughout the week and check in. Let someone know how you’re doing with your prayer life. Also, check in with your “one”. The one person you want to see have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Keep pouring into them. This may be the week they’re ready to make a change.

Here’s a song that may give you some strength and renewed excitement about our mission to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Put on the closed captions and have a mini-worship experience wherever you’re at. [Nobody](#) by [Casting Crowns](#).

# 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.



