

# LIFE GROUP LESSON

**Don't Forget to Remember • Week of September 17**

## Introduction

Don't forget to remember that we grow deeper in Christ by investing in somebody else's life. And we can't do that from a distance. This week we are emphasizing the fifth core value at Christ Church. Using the acronym C-H-R-I-S-T, the 'S' reminds each of us that *Small Groups Are the Best Place for Life Change*. Are you in a Life Group? Christ Church is about Reaching and Developing people to become fully-devoted followers of the Lord Jesus Christ – a direct mandate spoken by the Lord himself upon His ascension. As you go, (1) baptize and (2) teach:

*"Jesus came and told His disciples,*

*'I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this:*

*I am with you always, even to the end of the age'" (Matthew 28:18-20).*

For many years, the empty chair has been an ongoing metaphor at Christ Church to remind us that we exist for those who have yet to belong. Once we 'belong' to the family, it is important for us to gather corporately with other people in worship; as well as, in small group settings midweek. Consider how chairs are set up in corporate worship; most of the time, chairs face forward, which is important as we give attention to God and His spoken Word in weekend worship. However, in small groups (we call Life Groups) the chairs are arranged in a circle. We face each other. As we lean into one another's lives, listen to each other's stories, share some food or a cup of coffee, study and discuss God's Word together, and listen to the Holy Spirit, we emulate Jesus and his disciples. Finally, we pray together in a circle. Every need is important.

## Background

Not only did Jesus and his disciples 'do life together' but the early church did. As the Gospel message (Good News of Christ) spread, believers met regularly at the Temple, as well as, in homes: "They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being

saved" (Acts 2:46-47). Later, the apostle Paul (formerly a persecutor of the church) would preach the Gospel and help plant numerous churches across Asia Minor and the Mediterranean world. Paul was not the only one to carry the Gospel into these regions, but his many epistles – vital letters of instruction, admonition, and encouragement (many of which were written from prison) – were read and shared in small group settings.

## Read: Galatians 6:1-10

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can we help you?

It takes great courage to allow changes in your life. Choosing to follow Jesus is definitely a change in direction, as you turn from the old path and begin to follow in Christ's footsteps. But doesn't it make sense to want to get to know the One who loved you so much that He took your place in death? When the Lord Jesus died on the cross, He proved that no one will ever love you like He loves you. And upon the ascension (mentioned earlier) of the resurrected Jesus, the Bible says He lives to intercede for you. Think of it: Jesus is praying for you right now! No wonder the apostle Paul told the people in Philippi: "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all He has done" (Philippians 4:6). Jesus cares about your prayer requests – tell the Lord what you need! – because he will answer.

*Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf" (Hebrews 7:25).*

## Closing:

Small groups provide needed accountability. In small groups (Life Groups) we each share only to our level of comfort. In other words, there is no need to share 'our dirty laundry', we simply ask for prayer. Also, what is shared in the Life Group stays in the Life Group. Because Life Groups open and conclude with prayer, as we invite the Holy Spirit to teach us, guide our thoughts, words and conversation – we do not judge one another. The Lord helps us see one another through the eyes of Christ.

In Life Groups we encourage one another for growth in Christ. We remind each other that God cares about every detail of our day-to-day lives and is always working for our good and His glory. In Life Groups, we also pray for our pastors, lay pastors, and leaders – asking the Lord to help each of them stay strong, faithful to the work of ministry, and always be grounded in the Biblical truths of God’s Word.

Alone we can’t do much. But together we can accomplish great things. Declare today a change over your life. Speak words of life! Declare spiritual growth and maturation over every family of every campus of Christ Church. We need each other. “As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend” (Prov. 27:17).

# DON’T FORGET TO REMEMBER

**S: Small groups are the best place for life change.**

**Text:** Galatians 6:1-10

## PLAIN TRUTH

We are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ into followers of Christ as we \_\_\_\_\_ in each other.

1. Small groups provide needed \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Small groups provide \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.

3. Small groups develop Christian \_\_\_\_\_ for us to \_\_\_\_\_ a harvest of God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

### One Year Bible Reading

Sept. 17: Isaiah 25:1-28:13, Galatians 3:10-22, Psalm 61:1-8, Proverbs 23:17-18  
Sept. 18: Isaiah 28:14-30:11, Galatians 3:23-4:31, Psalm 62:1-12, Prov. 23:19-21  
Sept. 19: Isaiah 30:12-33:9, Galatians 5:1-12, Psalm 63:1-11, Proverbs 23:22  
Sept. 20: Isaiah 33:10-36:22, Galatians 5:13-26, Psalm 64:1-10, Proverbs 23:23  
Sept. 21: Isaiah 37:1-38:22, Galatians 6:1-18, Psalm 65:1-13, Proverbs 23:24  
Sept. 22: Isaiah 39:1-41:16, Ephesians 1:1-23, Psalm 66:1-20, Proverbs 23:25-28  
Sept. 23: Isaiah 41:17-43:13, Ephesians 2:1-22, Psalm 67:1-7, Proverbs 23:29-35

**September 17, 2023**