



THIS IS THRIVING!

commitments of a
Christ-centered
community

SERIES COMMUNITY GUIDE

THRIVE LA CHURCH
October 20254

How to Use This Guide

Over the next few weeks, we will be reading, discussing and learning from the book of Luke as we participate in spiritual practices that tie into our core values at Thrive. This guide covers the entirety of our five week "This is Thriving" series.

Watch the Sermon

In Person on Sundays at 10am: 2234 W Temple St, Los Angeles, CA 90026

Online Live on Sundays at 10am: thriveonlinechurch.com

Archived: thrivechurch.com/media

Gather Weekly

We have multiple Thrive Groups throughout Los Angeles and Online. We encourage our groups meeting in person to share a meal together.

Discussion

In your groups you will discuss the week's sermon and Bible readings with reflection/discussion questions designed to help you go deeper.

Join or Start a Group

Go to thrivechurch.com/thrivegroups or Text "Groups" to 323-709-0711 to be placed in a group and to learn more.



Week 0: Week of October 6th

Sunday, October 5th is the Thrive Birthday Party and Potluck day to kick off the new series, “This is Thriving.” We will start small group content for this new series next week, October 13th.

This week all small groups will do something SOCIAL with their group. (We may have new folks joining this Sunday and joining groups for the first time this week. Also, Sept was a lot of discussion, so let’s take a break and mix it up.)

Some ideas: have a group potluck, host a game night, go bowling, or go for ice cream.



Week 1: Reading God’s Story

week of October 13th

You’ve either read some, none, or all of the Bible, and no matter how much you’ve read, you are welcome here! This is a group and a church where you can learn, ask questions, and partner with others who are interested in figuring out what it means to follow Jesus. At Thrive LA, we believe that the Bible is the written word of God and that every section of it points back to Jesus. Jesus is the main character in God's story of love for all people and the world.

Opening Question:

What is your favorite Fall meal or treat?

Bible Reading:

Have someone in the group read Acts 2:42-47 out loud.

Discussion:

- What do you see about the role Scripture played in the disciples and early church through this passage?
- What is the role that Scripture plays in our journeys with Jesus?

Activity:

Learn how to have a quiet time – Journal through the Bible with the SOAP method! Everyone read Ephesians 2:1-10 and journal with the attached SOAP template (next 2 pages). Gather back together to share your answers.

Discussion Reflecting on the SOAP Practice:

- When you think about reading the Bible, what feelings come up?
How do you think reading the Bible more often might benefit you?

Prayer:

Leave some time for members of the group to share prayer requests and pray for them together as a group. Have a member of the group write down the prayer requests and text out the list during the week.

Personal Spiritual Practice:

Pick a time of day (morning, lunchtime, evening etc.) where you could add a 15 minute SOAP routine to your day. Set the goal of reading your Bible 3 times this week.

BIBLE STUDY

CHOOSE A CHAPTER OF THE BIBLE TO
READ AND PICK A SCRIPTURE THAT
SPEAKS TO YOU.

SCRIPTURE

Write out a verse from that chapter that sticks out.

OBSERVATION

How would you explain this verse? What's being said?

APPLICATION

What does this verse mean to you? How can you apply it?

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to help you implement this verse.

Read.
Observe.
Apply.
Pray.



S.O.A.P.

Today's date: _____

Today, I'm grateful for:

Today, I'm praying about:

Scripture

Observation

Application

Prayerful Response



Week 2: Your Spiritual Life

week of October 20th

You might sometimes hear people use the term "discipleship." When we talk about the word discipleship, what we mean is the act of following and becoming like Jesus. Jesus calls us into a relationship with Him, as He wants us to listen to his teachings and His words He has for us through Scripture reading and prayer. Jesus will also put people in our lives so we can learn more about Him and grow in our spiritual lives with Him.

Opening Question:

If you were to start your own business, what would it be?

Lectio Divina Activity (Acts 2:42-47)

This week we will be going through a centuries old prayer and mediation practice called Lectio Divina, which translates to Divine Reading. There are four steps to Lectio Divina:

- **Lectio** - Read the passage and have everyone follow along in their Bibles
- **Meditatio** - Meditate on the passage. Feel free to write down any thoughts or feelings that come up when reading through a second time. Invite the group to share a word or phrase that is sticking out in their minds.
- **Contemplatio** - Contemplate the scripture and share as a group what the scripture may mean to each of you personally
- **Pray** - Pray collectively about the scripture and what it means for your lives

Continued Prayer:

Get into groups of 3-4 and pray for one another. Ask if there are any needs that can be met and prayed for.

Personal Spiritual Practice

Write down a prayer for the week. Incorporate prayer into your daily rhythms this week. Pray in the car, when you wake up, or when cleaning the dishes. It doesn't matter how big or how small the prayer; God wants to hear it.



Week 3: Including Others in Your Story

week of October 27th

Including others is about both authenticity: "I can be fully known and loved" and hospitality: "I can let you be fully known and loved" which create a mutual safe space to grow into Christlike maturity. It takes both asking questions and sharing about yourself in order to foster a deeper relationship with someone. Throughout the Bible, we learn that following Jesus is meant to be shared in community with people encouraging others to grow and learn.

Opening Question:

If you could only eat one item of food for the rest of your life, what would you eat?

Bible Reading:

Have someone in the group read Acts 2:42-47 out loud.

Discussion:

- How does community play a role in our discipleship - our journeys with Jesus and becoming like Jesus?
- What are some examples of how the early believers lived in community?
- How did these practices/ways of living deepen their faith in Jesus?
- What obstacles or possible challenges do you think they may have faced in building authentic community with one another?
- What are your takeaways from this passage?

Activity:

Identify your five to thrive "social circle" using the guide on the next page. Prayerfully commit to know and be known by these people in a genuine way.

Prayer:

Ask God to give you a "word of blessing" (a word or phrase that reflects how God sees them) for each person on your five to thrive list.

Personal Spiritual Practice:

Commit to hanging out with at least one person on your five to thrive list and have a spiritual conversation (a conversation that gets to the root of what someone believes about faith and the world) with them.



Five to Thrive

Identify five people God has placed in your life: family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, church family, etc.

- Over the course of the next month,
- pray for them daily
- check in with them weekly
- invite them to a hangout regularly

See what God does through this intentionality, and at the end of the month, prayerfully consider extending it further as part of your lifestyle.



Week 4: Loving The City

week of November 3rd

God doesn't shy away from those who are suffering. He brings comfort, hope and practical service to those who are hurting. Likewise the people of God are meant to bring supernatural joy into the broken spaces of this world. This is done through our words and actions, by doing our part serving in the church, but also in our work, rest, and play.

Opening Question:

Have you explored anywhere new in Los Angeles recently? Do you have any recommendations for the group?

Bible Reading:

Have someone in the group read Acts 2:42-47 out loud. Then have a second person read it aloud in a different Bible version.

Activity:

Break out in pairs to help each other fill out the "Find Your Calling" worksheet. Then come back together. Have partners share an "I See In You" encouragement about their partner with the group based on the worksheet. The hope is to gain insight for how God has uniquely wired you and blessed you, to be a representative of Jesus to the people around you and to seek the thriving of the city.

Discussion:

- What impact do you imagine the early believers might have had on their community?
- In what ways has God specifically designed you to love the city?
- Who has God broken your heart for?
- How do you think the idea of "Loving the City" connects to your story and God's impact in your life?
- How could you be more intentional or strategic in leveraging your money, time, resources, and talents for eternal impact?

Prayer:

Pray as a group tonight. Use the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 to guide your prayers for the city this evening.

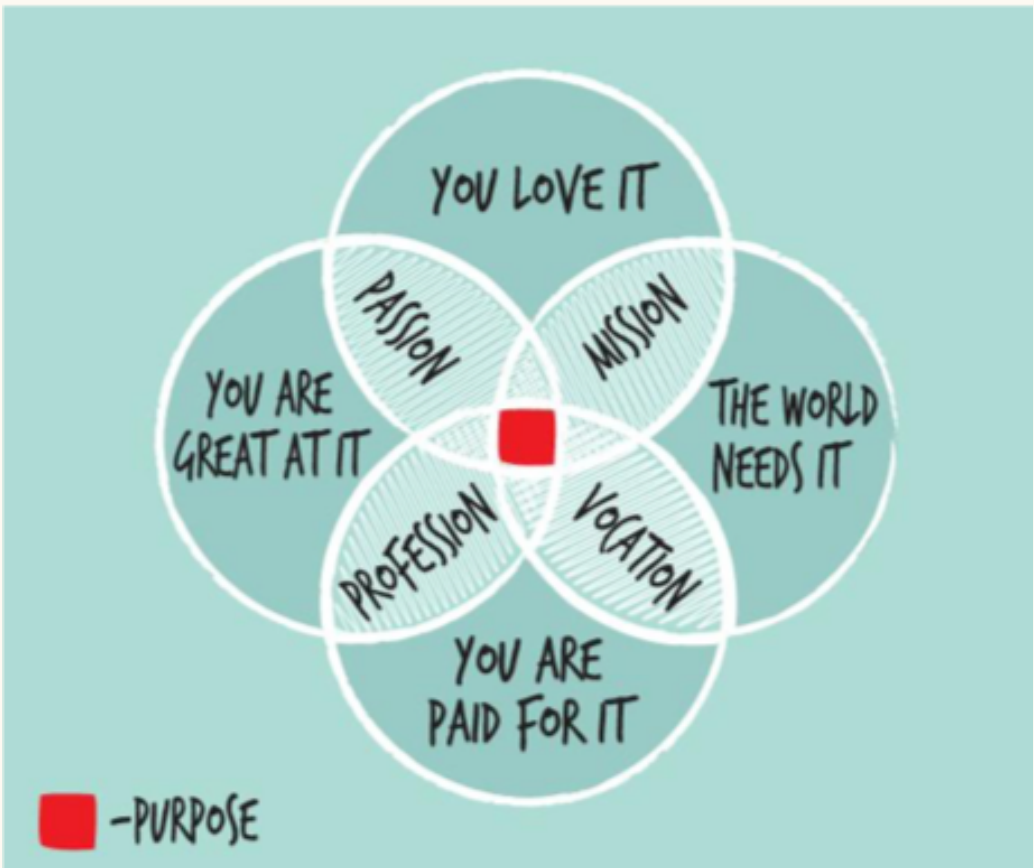
Personal Spiritual Practice:

What is a way you could love the city this week? Partner with others in the group and make an impact in your neighborhood.

Find Your Calling Worksheet

Help a partner think through the unique ways they’ve been shaped by God to make an impact in this world!

Don’t be afraid to speak words of life by sharing an “I see in you” encouragement that God lays on your heart.



YOU LOVE IT

- What are you passionate about?
- What kind of “work” makes you feel fully alive?
- What breaks your heart?

YOU ARE GREAT AT IT

- People affirm this about you.
- These skills help projects to succeed.
- It comes naturally or you’ve been trained.

THE WORLD NEEDS IT

- What responsibilities do you have to your family?
- What have your spiritual leaders asked you to do?
- What problems in the world need to be solved?

YOU GET PAID FOR IT

- How can you make a difference in people’s lives at work?
- How could your work itself make a positive impact in the world?
- How could your choice of work help you be more effective or generous outside of work?



Week 5: Empowering Others

week of November 10th

Every follower of Jesus is commanded to empower others to find abundant life in following Jesus. This includes helping people understand and experience the good news of Jesus (evangelism), helping them grow into Christlikeness (edification), and helping them use their gifts to serve God’s purpose in the world (equipping). This isn’t for all-star talented Christians, extra spiritual experts, or professional clergy... this is the reason God left us on earth. We get to join in on what God is doing in the lives of others!

Opening Question:

What podcast or music have you been listening to recently?

Bible Reading:

Have someone in the group read Acts 2:42-47 out loud.

Discussion:

- This passage talks about new people becoming believers on a regular basis (v. 47)... How do you think this happened? What were the followers of Jesus doing (or not doing) that made the Gospel appealing?
- Who has had a meaningful impact on your walk with Jesus? What did they do (or not do) that stands out to you?
- How can you share this Good News with others or encourage them in their journey with Jesus?
- Who can you bring along in your journey with Jesus?

Activity:

Review your five to thrive from week 5 and consider how you could

- “B.L.E.S.S.” someone this week.
- B (Bring them a gift/card)
- L (Listen to their story)
- E (Eat a meal with them)
- S (Serve them practically)
- S (Share part of God’s Story with them)

Prayer:

Leave some time for members of the group to share prayer requests and pray for them together as a group. Have a member of the group write down the prayer requests and text out the list during the week.

Personal Spiritual Practice:

Act on the “Activity” from above. If you are new to the group, consider making a commitment to join the Thrive Group on a long-term basis.