



CITIZENS CHURCH

Condemnation & Grace | Sunday, January 11, 2026

(5-10 min) *Optional Ice Breaker: If you could only live in Summer or Winter all year long, which would you choose?*

LEADERS: Please share these announcements at the start of group time.

Announcements

WINTER SOCIAL:

Sunday, Jan 25 | 6-7:30pm | Citizens Foyer: Connect with other Citizens members with similar interests in your city! Our community social events are great ways to meet and enjoy Citizens folks outside our HG. Bring your favorite dessert, and Citizens will provide the hot chocolate and cider! Register now:

<https://citizenschurch.com/Registration/hg-winter-social-2026>

HOME GROUP ASSESSMENTS:

HG Assessments help us reflect on God's activity in our Home Group so we can celebrate what God's done and continue to *build community, pursue sanctification, and live on mission* together.

We'll have fun, important, and fruitful conversations as we engage the assessment together this month.

Leader: *Find the Assessment PDFs for you and your group attached to this week's email newsletter.*

HG NEW LEADER INTEREST MEETING:

Sunday, Jan 25 | 11am-12:15pm | Conf. Room B: Citizens is growing! And more HG Leaders are needed. Come to learn, ask questions, as you discern if God is directing you toward Home Group leadership, now or in the future. Sign up at

<https://citizenschurch.com/Event/580> or email group@citizenschurch.com.



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Read God's Word Aloud

1 John 3:19-20

19 By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; **20** for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.

Romans 7:22-8:2

22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, **23** but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. **24** Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? **25** Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **2** For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

Discuss God's Word and God's World

Important: *The goal is to use this Guide to spark sanctifying conversation and opportunities for intercessory prayer, not to “get through” every question like a checklist. Feel free to linger on the questions that best facilitate that for your group.*

Start here: *Take a few moments to reflect together on this week's Bible passage. What stands out to you in these verses and what impacted you from the sermon about them?*

- What does it mean that “God is greater than our heart”? (1 John 3:20)
- In what kinds of scenarios does your heart condemn you? In which kinds of scenarios does it give you license?



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- How is God's grace and sovereignty the solution to a condemning or enabling heart?
- Is God's voice the most authoritative voice in your life, louder and stronger than the world's voice, others' voices, or your own? If not, how can the people in this group help it to be?
- In Romans 8:1, God tells us there is "now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." What makes this difficult to believe? And what happens in our life when we do?
- What's one tangible way your Home Group can help you understand and live in the freedom of God's grace and forgiveness?
- How is the Holy Spirit inviting you to respond to God's grace right now? Praise? Confession? Gratitude? Sharing your faith? Something else?

Sanctificational Prayer Guidance

Give thanks together for God's undeserved grace and unrelenting mercy. Praise Jesus for living the perfect life we could never live and dying in our place so we can be forgiven and know God.

God, our hearts are prone to wander and our minds are prone to disbelieve. Forgive us when we choose to trust voices other than yours, and please free us - in your Son - from the fear that we can never be enough. Help us to trust his work for us, your Word about us, and the Spirit's presence in us.

Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you more and more, for God's glory, others' good, and your joy.

Family Memory Verse of the Month for January

You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

Leviticus 19:2b (ESV)