

Leader's Community Group Study Guide
For the week of February 8, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS

Men's Softball Starts Sunday, February 21, 6-7pm

Women's Night Of Gathering, Sunday, February 23, 7-8:45pm

Foster Parent Orientation, Wednesday, February 26, 7-8pm

Please check out www.stfchurch.com/events to register for the above events.

***If your group meets on a Wednesday evening, and you have kids in middle/high school, please attend the Student Ministry Parent Meeting at the BP campus in the sanctuary 6:30-7:30pm as they will go over: 2020 WKND, For 813, VBX, Alabama, Camp, and more.*

We recommend you have this conversation during fellowship time in your group. Community Groups Service Project is coming up! We will be having a Church-wide Serve Day, February 29, 2020, 9:00am - 2:00pm

We'll be combining a family-friendly time of fun and fellowship with service at one of several locations in South Tampa, and we need your help to make it happen. Please decide as a group, which project you would like to work on as a team, then register for that project. Some projects are a roll-up-your-sleeves type project and others are collecting needs for the locations designated. Please discuss this a group and look online for details at www.stfchurch.com/events

- Just Elementary School -- Basketball courts painting and restoration, Compassion Center
- Stewart Middle School -- Basketball courts painting and restoration
- Home -- Yard work and beautification
- A Woman's Place -- Property cleanup and interior decorating
- Created Café -- Meeting with trafficked/homeless women

MY STORY

1. How did you feel about going to church when you were a kid?

2. What do you like best about your church?

3. From this weekend's sermon, which one statement, point or insight was most helpful, challenging or even confusing to you personally?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Acts 2:42-47. What made the early church so appealing to others?

- Their spiritual vitality
- Other: _____
- Their love for each other
- Their openness to others
- Miracles
- Great preaching

2. One important reason for getting connected in a community group is because it's the best place to carry out the over 50 "one another" commands in the New Testament. These commands are nearly impossible to fulfill in a larger group setting or by yourself. Below are few of them. After reading each verse, identify the "one another" command in each one.

(Ask members of the group to go around reading each one of these aloud. Encourage members to underline/circle/highlight the command given to us if they haven't already so that there can be more natural conversation for the questions below)

John 13:34-35 - (NIV) - ³⁴"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Romans 12:10 - (NIV) - ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:16 - (NIV) - ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.^[a] Do not be conceited.

Romans 14:13 - (NIV) - ¹³Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

Romans 15:7 - (NIV) - ⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Romans 15:14 - (NIV) - ¹⁴I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

Colossians 3:16 - (NIV) - ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Galatians 5:13 - (NIV) - ¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh^[a]; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

Ephesians 4:32 - (NIV) - ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Colossians 3:9 - (NIV) - ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices

1 Thessalonians 5:15 - (NIV) - ¹⁵ Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

Hebrews 3:13 - (NIV) - ¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Which one or two of these "one another" commands stand out to you?

Are there any steps you need to take to develop these kinds of relationships in your own life?

(Be willing to go first in vulnerability of how you yourself need to work on one of these commands better. Follow up questions may include, "How do these commands affect your daily life?" "How is our church fellowship like and unlike the fellowship listed here or in Acts 2:42-47?" "How will these commands affect how you get involved in church?"

3. God never intended for us to face sin and life challenges on our own. His plan has always been for us to be in relationships where we're genuinely known, lovingly supported and honestly challenged. How do the following passages help you understand what *your* responsibilities are for helping create this kind of environment?

(Follow up questions may include, "Which of these qualities do you want to cultivate most right now?" "How would your life be different as God helps you to put this quality into action?")

Galatians 6:1-2

Matthew 18:15-17

Ephesians 4:25, 29 & 32

Matthew 5:23-24

TAKING IT HOME

1. What aspect of life in the early church do you most desire for your church or this group?
2. What needs do you have right now? How can this group pray for you?

PRAYER REQUESTS

Use some of the member's answers from discussion time as prayer requests for the entire group. Keep the prayers short and simple.