



# COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER'S STUDY GUIDE

*For the week of April 30, 2023*

## Announcements

- **This is our last Community Group Lesson for the season! We will start back up in the fall. We invite you to be part of the summer studies in both our Men's and Women's Ministries.**

Our Kids Ministry is getting ready for Summer Splash!

What is it? A chance for you to dive into serving with kids during the months of June and July! Summer Splash is designed to give our faithful small group leaders that serve every Sunday throughout the year some well-deserved time off! Would you consider serving one Sunday a month in kids during the summer? Invite a friend to shadow/serve with you! Parents, get to see first-hand what your kids are learning on Sunday! Not sure if serving with kids is a good fit for you? Come see what it's all about! Reach out to Kim at [kim@stfchurch.com](mailto:kim@stfchurch.com) if you or someone you know is interested to get more information.

## My Story

1. When you think of the Old Testament what comes to mind?

- Adventure and action
- Too old and thick to grasp
- Hard to understand
- Rich and full of variety
- Other

2. This week we heard the Old Testament reveals God's character, heart, power and plan. Which one of these do you tend to tune into more when thinking about God or reading the Bible?

## Quick Review

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## Going Deeper

Having a clear understanding of the Old Testament is important in gaining a full picture of who God is and His plan for us. King David, the Apostle Paul and Jesus can each give us a healthy perspective of the Old Testament and its laws. Read the following passages and jot down notes on each man's perspective.

**David:** Psalm 1:1-3, Psalm 19:7-11

### **Psalm 1:1-3 (New International Version)**

*Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. [2] But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. [3] He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.*

### **Psalm 19:7-11 (New International Version)**

*The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. [8] The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. [9] The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. [10] They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. [11] By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.*

**Paul:** Romans 3:19-24, Romans 7:7

### **Romans 3:19-24 (New International Version)**

*Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. [20] Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. [21] But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. [22] This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24] and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

### **Romans 7:7 (New International Version)**

*What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet."*

**Jesus:** Matthew 22:34-40

### **Matthew 22:34-40 (New International Version)**

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. [35] One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: [36] "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" [37] Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' [38] This is the first and greatest commandment. [39] And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' [40] All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." [NIV]

In what ways can these passages help you understand the Old Testament and its influence on your relationship with God?

## Remembrance

1. Looking back at this past quarter and year, how has your Community Group experience helped your walk with Jesus? Can you think of any Growth Group prayers God has answered?

*Additional Question Option: Meeting week to week in our Community Groups helps us stay encouraged and focused on God's priorities. As you take a break from your weekly group meetings for the summer, what are one or two things from our Hebrews series that you want to keep in mind this summer?*

*Note: This question may flow best if asked after people share how the group has helped them over this past year. Then refocus on taking Communion together and thanking God for what he has done both in the group and for us personally; that we might have a life of meaning, purpose and impact. You can use people's responses to this as a prayer list to give to your group for the summer. Everyone may not have a response.*

2. Jesus knows we forget things, even when it comes to what he's done for us. That's why Jesus told the disciples at the Last Supper to repeatedly come together and take Communion. Taking Communion is about remembering all that Christ accomplished through his death on the cross and resurrection. It is through this sacrifice that Jesus' grace and mercy are made available to us.

This week, your Community Group will conclude by taking Communion together as the disciples did. To prepare for this, read the following verses and reflect on Jesus' commitment and work in your life as you follow him.

### COMMUNION:

1. *Explain that we want to end the Growth Group year by remembering and celebrating Christ's death and resurrection.*

2. *Read the verses below. You can ask for people's responses to them, or just comment on them yourself. Use the 1 Corinthians passage to take you into Communion.*

1 Peter 2:22-25 – 22 “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 24 “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” 25 For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Romans 5:7-11 – 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 – 23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

3. *Pass the bread, give a prayer of thanks to God for it, and eat together. Pass the cup, thank God for it, and drink together.*

## Prayer Requests

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