



# COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

For the week of September 17, 2023

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GO DAY is coming! Saturday, September 30th** Work shifts are available in the morning and afternoon.

- Elementary school build projects & landscaping
- Local meal-packing (goal of 10,000 meals) for local Tampa families
- Community projects (i.e., building wheelchair ramps for the elderly)

Register at [stfchurch.com/events](http://stfchurch.com/events)

**STF Women's Conference: Reset Refresh Rest, October 20 - 21, 2023**

This year, we will focus on what it looks like to refresh, reset, and rest even in the midst of the chaos of life. author, speaker, and podcaster Cleere Cherry Reaves as our guest speaker and our own singer/songwriter Shannon Estee leading us in worship. The conference kicks Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. at the Ballast Point Campus and concludes Saturday at 1:00 p.m. Tickets are \$49.

Register at [stfchurch.com/events](http://stfchurch.com/events)

**"Have You Prayed About It"** - Download the "Prayer Wall" app on your mobile device to post prayer requests and to pray for one another.

## Getting To Know You

1. What would you title your memoir?
2. What songs would be played on a loop in hell?
3. What is one thing you're most looking forward to most about heaven?

**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?

## Digging Deeper

1. This past week we talked about the reality of what hell is and what hell is not. What stood out to you the most about the reality of hell?

2. The fact that hell is the absence of God's presence. When has there been a time in your life that you felt like you were living "hell on earth"?

3. The truth of God's Word is something that points us to the realization that He wants a relationship with us not just knowledge of information about Him. We can spend time celebrating and appreciating God's love for us one moment, only to forget that it changes our lives and actions the next.

As you read through the following lessons that Jesus taught, write down in your own words what you think Jesus is trying to teach us.

**Luke 10:25-37 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>25</sup> On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"  
<sup>26</sup> "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"  
<sup>27</sup> He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"  
<sup>28</sup> "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."  
<sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"  
<sup>30</sup> In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead."  
<sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.  
<sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.  
<sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.  
<sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.  
<sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'  
<sup>36</sup> "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"  
<sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

**Matthew 7:24-27 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>24</sup> "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.  
<sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.  
<sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.  
<sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Of the two passages, was there one that you most needed to hear? Why?

If a close friend or family member had to identify you as one of the characters in the passage you chose, which would they choose? Why?

Think of a loose acquaintance, someone whom you know from work or the neighborhood but haven't really spent much time with. If that person had to identify you as a character in the passage, which would they choose? Why?

## Taking It Home

Sometimes the best thing we can do for others is to pray for them. Set aside a moment this week to ask God to show His love to someone who randomly crosses your path. Your prayer could look as simple as this. "God would you please show your love to \_\_\_\_ in a way they can feel it and know it's You today."

## Prayer Requests

Do you have any prayer requests regarding this weekend's message or for you personally?

### Tips On Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in Community Group. Over the years, we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.

**WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME** - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request, either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

**PRAY MORE THAN ONCE** - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

**WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE** - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one is required to pray out loud.