



# COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS STUDY GUIDE

For the week of October 8, 2023

## LEADER NOTES

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **STF Women's Conference: Reset Refresh Rest, October 20 - 21 Ballast Point Campus**

This year, we will focus on what it looks like to refresh, reset, and rest even in the midst of the chaos of life. The conference kicks Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. and concludes Saturday at 1:00 p.m. Tickets are \$49. Register at [stfchurch.com/events](http://stfchurch.com/events)

#### **STF Business Meeting, Sunday, October 22, 12:45-1:45pm**

The Business meeting will start at 12:45 at the Ballast Point campus. If you usually attend our Davis Islands or Channel District campus, we hope you will join us after service! At this Business Meeting, we will be voting for the new 2024 church budget.

#### **Candy Trail, Sunday, October 29, 5-7pm**

Candy Trail is STF's Trunk or Treat event for the fall! We would love for you to come out to our Ballast Point Campus on October 29, from 5-7 to celebrate together! Wear your best costume and get ready for food, fun, bubbles, music, and of course, CANDY!

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

### LEADER INFO

#### TIPS FOR WEEK 5

→ **DISCUSSION REMINDER:** As always, remember that the purpose of multiple questions in the homework is to offer a variety of discussion options (kind of like a smorgasbord), as groups often vary when it comes to where they would like to focus. Answering all the questions oftentimes means you're not taking the time to hear from everyone, digging into the question or taking the time to catch-up and hear how everyone is doing.

This week, make sure you take time to focus on the action steps in "Digging Deeper" question #2. It is our hope you and your people are encouraged to take those next steps to show God's love to those He has brought into your life. Be aware that depending on when in the week your group meets, some people may have put something into action already and some may not have yet. If people have done so already, you can take some time to talk about how it went, and if they haven't yet, you can help brainstorm, encourage and keep them accountable by following up throughout the week.

#### → **ATTENDANCE**

Submit your group's attendance online

## My Story

1. Love is widely talked about in our world in a variety of ways. Thinking about what you have heard from popular culture, music, movies, television, books, etc., what are some words, phrases, quotes or song lyrics often used to describe love?

1 John 4:8 tells us that God is love. Looking at the descriptions you gave in your answer above, if you were to replace "love" with "God," would the statements line up with what you know about God? Explain.

*Note: This can be silly and fun, or you could also land on some meaningful conversation, depending on your group's answers. Don't be afraid to have fun with it! Some quotes or lyrics will make sense when you replace "love" with "God" and some won't. For example: "Love is all you need." (God is all you need.) "You just need to love yourself." (You just need to God yourself. God is the only God; we are called to deny ourselves.) "Just a hunk, a hunk of burning love."*

2. Think of a person in your life who loves others well. What about them or their actions demonstrates love?

What impact has this person had on your life?

*Note: This can be a powerful way to identify how loving others impacts people. How have you been impacted by this person's love? How might you being loving to others impact them? Even small things can make a difference in a person's life.*

**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. Check any of the statements below that describe what typically motivates you to help others who are in need.

*Good question to have everyone answer.*

- Just seeing a need
- Obeying God's call
- Feeling a tug on your heart
- Feelings of obligation
- Bringing someone to faith
- Being asked to help
- Relating with the need
- Rewards in Heaven
- Getting something in return
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Our hope for our reason for "doing good" is to spread the good news of God's love through our loving attitudes and servant hearts. Paul revealed his strategy to do this in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. How could this passage impact the way we minister to others and serve through our church and our normal lives?

### **1 Corinthians 9:19-23 New International Version (NIV)**

*19 Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.*

*Paul had a mission – to see as many people come to know, obey and follow Jesus as possible. He was willing to become culturally relevant to accomplish this mission by embracing things he normally wouldn't have done.*

What might it look like in your life to be a "slave to everyone, to win as many as possible?"

*A slave serves with no expectation of getting anything in return. Serving is their job. Serving is one of the best ways for others to see Christ through us. See Philippians 2:5-8.*

**Additional Question:** *How realistic is it to think someone could consistently live like this?*

What risks, if any, do you see in Paul's strategy?

*Becoming culturally relevant is not a license to sin in order to reach others.*

**Additional Question:** *What would it look like to take Paul's strategy to an extreme?*

## Taking It Home

1. Looking back at this week's teaching and homework, is there anything in the work of "doing good" that you want to remember?
2. Is there anything hindering your compassion for others that you need to pray about?

## Prayer Requests