

TCC Community Guide

For the week of January 22, 2023

Rule of Life Mini Series

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teachings from January 8, 15, 22

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reading of Scripture. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the passage provided, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: Psalm 90:1-12

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, Luke 10:38-42

This passage records an encounter Jesus has as a guest in the home of Mary and Martha which challenges our idea of what we may consider to be necessary in the way we order our lives. Pastor Adam spoke on this passage and the concepts of Sabbath and Rule of life, teaching the following:

- Jesus' message in Luke 10 is clear that while much demands our attention, while much leads us to feel troubled or anxious, we must give ourselves to living with such a posture where we are keeping company with God
- We must consider our practices and priorities and how they help us or keep us from experiencing intentional life with Jesus.
- During these past weeks, we've defined rule of life as: "A schedule and set of practices and relational rhythms that create space for us to be with Jesus, to become like Jesus, and to do what he would do if he were us."
- A rule of life invites us to consider our current priorities and commitments and commit to reordering our practices in such a way that we create space for God to work in our lives and for us to be present to Him and one another. While a rule of life may feel like a call to do more, it should help us create space and do less.
- Pastor Adam presented Sabbath as a practice to incorporate into our rule of life, as an intentional way to create space in our lives.
- A helpful Sabbath framework is: Stop, Rest, Delight and Worship

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from these messages and Luke 10:38-42?
2. How do you react to Jesus' interaction with Martha and Mary?
3. Have you considered a rule of life in the past? What do you think about the reality that you already have a rule of life? What would you identify in your current rule of life? What needs to change?
4. Are there areas in your life where my priorities keep me from being able to abide with Christ and experience the abundant life he has for me?
5. Have you practiced Sabbath before? What excites you about it or causes you to feel hesitant? What would need to happen in order for you and your family to practice sabbath?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? If this is your first meeting, ask what their prayer is for the group in the months ahead. Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of February 5, 2023
Living the Life: A Study on Jesus' Last Words

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teachings from February 5, 2023

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reading of Scripture. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the passage provided, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: Philippians 2:1-11

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, John 13:31-38.

This portion of scripture comes from the Upper Room Discourse, which documents Jesus' final words to His disciples. Pastor Norb taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- Jesus' glory in this passage is referring to his death and resurrection.
- Jesus' comments in this passage emphasize that these are His last words. Norb invited us to consider the reality that we do not know the day or the hour of our passing. We rightly consider our own potential last words to others.
- Jesus gives a commandment to obey: that we would love one another in the same way Christ has demonstrated His love to us. (CF 1 Peter 4:8) Obeying this commandment requires that we participate in Christian community.
- Our love for one another is a testimony to the world about Jesus' love. We need to remember this and love accordingly!
- This passage also documents Peter's declaration of commitment and Jesus' following prediction of Peter's denial. Pastor Norb emphasized that it is easy to critique Peter without examining our own hearts.
- Jesus also gives an implicit commitment to observe: Jesus invites Peter, and us to to commit our whole lives to Him. How will you extend your commitment to Jesus through intentional practices? Norb suggested the practices of Prayer (spending time with Jesus), fasting (exercising our "no" muscles and demonstrating control over the flesh), and sabbath keeping (slowing our pace of life to give more attention to what is most necessary).

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from these messages and John 13: 31-38?
2. Thinking through the whole of scripture, in what ways does Jesus demonstrate love for others? How might it inform how we are to love others?
3. Who in this season do you feel God calling you to love? In what ways is this difficult? What from Jesus' example is helpful for you as you seek to love intentionally?
4. In what ways have you experienced Peter-like denial qualities in your own life?
5. What practices do you have in place in your own life to help you deepen your commitment to Jesus?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? If this is your first meeting, ask what their prayer is for the group in the months ahead. Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of February 12, 2023
Living the Life: A Study on Jesus' Last Words

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teachings from February 12, 2023

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reading of Scripture. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the passage provided, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: Psalm 131

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, John 14:1-14

This portion of scripture comes from the Upper Room Discourse, which documents Jesus' final words to His disciples. Pastor Adam taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- Jesus' comments in this section flow from His opening instruction to not let their hearts be troubled
- Jesus addresses their troubled hearts by asking them to trust His promises to prepare a place for them and to come back for them. His "going to prepare a place" is an illusion to His going to the cross. His work on the cross created the possibility for people to be brought into relationship with God, a relationship they were designed for and through which we experience abundant life.
- Jesus addresses their troubled hearts by inviting them to trust in His character (person). He says that He is the way, the truth, and the life. In Jesus we discover the only true way to God, all others are counterfeit.
- Jesus addresses their troubled hearts by inviting them to trust in His power. In this passage Jesus emphasis that He is God, which means His power is God's. We can trust in Jesus' power and know that it will never be matched or overcome. His plans and promises are secure.
- Trust in Jesus may not change our circumstance, but it enables us to journey through them with a different posture and perspective.
- Jesus says we will do greater works than the ones He did in that the works we do are done in light of the death and resurrection of Jesus. While Jesus' earthly ministry demonstrated in-breakings of the kingdom of God, it was not able to reconcile people to the Father as Jesus had not yet been glorified. We carry on in His ministry, both experiencing and ministering towards reconciliation with God.
- We engage in this ministry by praying in Jesus name. We pray in Jesus name as we use Jesus' access and represent His character

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from the message and John 14:1-14
2. How does hope in what Jesus will do in the future affect how you live in the present?
3. What does Jesus being the way, the truth and the life mean to you? How would you define each of these statements?
4. How has prayer disappointed and/or surprised you in the past?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? If this is your first meeting, ask what their prayer is for the group in the months ahead. Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of February 19, 2023
Living the Life: A Study on Jesus' Last Words

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teachings from February 19, 2023

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reading of Scripture. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the passage provided, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: Numbers 6:22-26

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, John 14:15-31

This portion of scripture comes from the Upper Room Discourse, which documents Jesus' final words to His disciples. Pastor Steve taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- Jesus promised something magnificent to those who follow Him
- Remember the context: The disciples were longing freedom from Roman oppression and national peace. However, the peace Jesus established was truly not of this world, but was given through the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus promises the spirit who will teach us, lead us into truth, and provide us with peace.
- Love is the catalyst for the promise. God first loved us, the entire reason Jesus came as a man was because of God's love for His creation. We then love God which is demonstrated through our obedience to His word.
- By calling us to love, Jesus does not call us to something that he was unwilling to do himself. He showed the ultimate obedience, the ultimate commitment both to his Father and to us; death on a cross, bearing the shame and sin of all people for all time.
- We experience the promise of Jesus in the person of the Holy Spirit who enables us to experience union with God.
- Pastor Steve invited us to apply this passage in the following three ways: Be teachable, seek truth, and love with abandon.
- Pastor Steve invited us to consider the practice of fasting during this coming lenten season as a way to more intentionally be filled with the spirit of God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from the message and John 14:15-31
2. What has your experience with the Holy Spirit been in your life? How would you describe your experience with the Holy Spirit as a helper, teacher or counsellor?
3. Pastor Steve shared a testimony of experiencing the peace of Christ through prayer. How do you experience and receive the peace of Christ? What do you do to calm anxiety or worry and welcome the peace of Jesus?
4. Have you practiced fasting before, what was your experience with it? Will you consider fasting from food in some way during this season of Lent? If not, why not? How might this community help you engage meaningfully with the season of Lent?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? If this is your first meeting, ask what their prayer is for the group in the months ahead. Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of February 26, 2023
Living the Life: A Study on Jesus' Last Words

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teachings from February 26, 2023

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reading of Scripture. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the passage provided, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: Psalm 91

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, John 15:1-17

This portion of scripture comes from the Upper Room Discourse, which documents Jesus' final words to His disciples. Pastor Adam taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- Jesus' reference to being the "true" vine is an OT allusion to Israel being the vine (cf. Psalm 80). The vine was an image of peace and prosperity, Israelites in Jesus' day longed for a restoration of Israel as the vine, and to again experience peace and prosperity as a nation. Jesus calling Himself the "true" vine was a way to say that the life the disciples were longing for, could only be found in Him. Not a liberated Israel, and not through the change of circumstances.
- We experience the peace and prosperity Jesus offers by abiding in Him. To abide is to remain with Jesus, stay, or make our home with Him.
- As we abide Jesus calls us to pray, to obedience and to practice self-sacrificial love
- Only as we abide in Jesus do we bear fruit. Some of the ways the Bible portrays fruit is: 1) Internal fruit of knowing we are loved, 2) Internal fruit of character (Gal.5), external fruit of good deeds, 4) external fruit of people receiving the gospel.
- As we abide we must surrender our idea of fruitfulness, of the good life, to God. Many of us do not abide because we suffer from fruit envy: looking at the world around us and desiring what they have more than what God has for us.
- Jesus calls us to abide so that we will experience love and joy.
- The Father ensures the fruitfulness of Christians through pruning branches or cutting branches right back. Christians may experience seasons of fruitlessness, which should encourage them to press more intentionally into Jesus (the vine).
- We can abide through practices of abided prayer, submission, and by ordering our lives around the possibility of communing with Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from the message and John 15:1-17
2. What do you do, or what practices do you engage in to help you abide in Jesus?
3. What are examples of fruitfulness that you have seen in your life?
4. What keeps you from abiding? Do you struggle with fruit envy?
5. Would you say you've experienced "pruning" or seasons of being "cut back" (fruitless), how did you navigate that season?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? If this is your first meeting, ask what their prayer is for the group in the months ahead. Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of March 5, 2023
Living the Life: A Study on Jesus' Last Words

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teachings from March 5, 2023

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reading of Scripture. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the passage provided, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: Matthew 28:16-20

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, John 15:18-27

This portion of scripture comes from the Upper Room Discourse, which documents Jesus' final words to His disciples. Pastor Quinn taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- Pastor Quinn provides the following definition of "the world": a world that is in direct opposition to Jesus and to living in His way. A force going against Christ and His kingdom.
- Persecution looks like social-pressure or "social-death", it looks like being hated
- Jesus highlights that following Him, and not the world, will lead to persecution. Jesus makes this statement about reality: when we choose to pursue Jesus we will face persecution.
- Pastor Quinn encouraged us to realize that our persecution does not have to meet a certain threshold for it to matter.
- Pastor Quinn challenged us to consider if a lack of persecution is a reflection that we are not living the life Jesus is calling us to.
- Quinn pointed to three realities that cause persecution: 1) when Jesus is Lord of our life, 2) when we are doing life with (and in) the world, 3) when we talk about and share Jesus.
- Jesus is with us as we endure persecution.
- Our endurance through persecution is an expression of worship to God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from the message and John 15:18-27
2. Have you experienced social persecution, or "social-death"? What other types of persecution have you experienced? How do you handle persecution when it comes?
3. During the sermon, Pastor Quinn invited us to ask this question: Where is God in the midst of our persecution?
4. What encouragements do you read in the text or hear in Quinn's message? Share these with others and allow them to bring hope and comfort to the group.

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? If this is your first meeting, ask what their prayer is for the group in the months ahead. Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of March 12, 2023
Living the Life: A Study on Jesus' Last Words

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As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reading of Scripture. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the passage provided, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: Philippians 3:8-11

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, 15:26-16:15

This portion of scripture comes from the Upper Room Discourse, which documents Jesus' final words to His disciples. Pastor Norb taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- The context of this passage is Jesus' continued message to the disciples that He is leaving. Specifically, Jesus just told them they would be persecuted for following Him. Jesus' teaching on the Spirit comes as a comfort to the disciples.
- Jesus leaving the disciples is to their advantage, though they probably doubted this, as the Holy Spirit would not only always be with them, but He would bring His comfort, his counsel, His peace, His understanding.
- The Holy Spirit is a unique person (not a force or energy), is God (a member of the Trinity), was involved in creation, is the one who makes a person a Christian (Jn. 3), and is the author of the Bible.
- In relationship with the world, He convicts the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment.
- When we say the work of the Holy Spirit is to convict, we mean that His role is "to cross-examine with the purpose of convincing or refuting an opponent."
- The Holy Spirit brings conviction of sin. He brings the guilt of sin to the human consciousness. Not so that we feel shame, not to leave us feeling guilty, feeling awful, but so that humanity would seek the mercy of God.
- The Spirit has to convict us about righteousness because the world has a wrong understanding of it. Again, the Holy Spirit's work convinces us that our righteousness doesn't even come close to Jesus' righteousness.
- Norb concluded his message with the invitation to come to Jesus, pray for others (that they would experience the convicting work of the spirit), and live in the presence, power, and peace of the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from the message and John 15:26-16:15
2. Pastor Norb shared a childhood story of being convicted of sin. Do you have a similar story? How do you experience the conviction of the spirit? (A feeling, through the word of a friend, reading the Bible)
3. How would you explain the Holy Spirit to a child? What is a new learning or reminder about the Holy Spirit from the sermon or passage?
4. How should the reminder that it is the Holy Spirit, not you or I, who convicts others, transform our prayer lives?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days? What would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also, ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of March 19, 2023

Living the Life: A Study on Jesus' Last Words

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As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reading of Scripture. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the passage provided, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: Galatians 5:22-25

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, John 16:16-33

This portion of scripture is the conclusion of the Upper Room Discourse. Pastor Adam taught the following about this passage:

- The repetition of the phrase, "in a little while" is significant. John is highlighting that Jesus is the fulfillment of the anticipation of time and that the most significant moment of His ministry is about to take place.
- Jesus promises that His death and resurrection bring great joy that cannot be taken away. The same joy Jesus promised to the disciples is available to you and I, right now.
- Full and lasting joy is found in the gospel. Receive the gospel and the joy it offers. Adam identified that We often have no category for the joy of the gospel reaching into our sorrow. We have an idea of how we want it to look, but we must accept that God's joy may be different and better than we could have ever imagined.
- There is power in prayer. This life of joy is made available by a renewed relationship with God, established by Jesus' resurrection, our faith in Him, and accessed by praying in Jesus' name (22-24).
- Difficulty is part of the journey. Jesus again and again promises us that we will face difficulty. These verses reveal how the disciples were on a journey in their understanding of Jesus and his purposes.
- March Buchanan writes: "Christianity does not provide a supernatural cure for suffering; it provides a supernatural use for it". Suffering refines faith, perfects hope, weans us from sin, and deepens intimacy with Jesus. Or, if we're not careful, we can allow it to have the opposite effects of corroding faith, shattering hope, giving excuse for sin, or distancing us from Jesus

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from the message and John 16:16-33
2. What themes do you see in these verses that you notice are repeated from John chapters 13-16? In what ways do you think this repetition is significant?
3. In what ways do you see yourself in how the disciples are portrayed in these verses?
4. How would you describe the joy that comes from the gospel? How does it differ from other pleasures of life?
5. Do you find yourself in a difficult season? How might you discover joy in this season?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days? What would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also, ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of March 26, 2023
Living the Life: A Study on Jesus' Last Words

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As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reading of Scripture. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the passage provided, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: Psalm 23

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, John 17:1-5

This portion of scripture is often called the "High Priestly Prayer". Pastor Norb taught on this section, highlighting the following:

- Jesus is praying to the Father, highlighting his attributes as being: "the only true God" (v3), "holy" (v11), and righteous (v25). He is praying that God would be glorified.
- Jesus prayed that he may be glorified with the same glory of his pre-incarnate state (c.f. Jn 1:14, Phil.2:6-8).
- Jesus' death was a glorifying event. While "death and glory do not make natural bedfellows" (Peterson), Jesus' death was glorifying in that his resurrection was victory over death. Consider Phil. 2:9-11.
- Pastor Norb encouraged us to see in these verses an invitation to engage with our church mission statement:
 - Know Jesus: Verse 3 highlights that eternal life is knowing Jesus. Knowledge, in Jewish thinking, is not simply about intellectual ascent. Rather, it encompasses experience and intimacy. In knowing Jesus we seek to experience him and deepen in relationship with him.
 - Walk with Jesus: Keep company with Jesus in our day to day, moment by moment life. We can pray like Jesus. We walk with Jesus as we engage with a rule of life, an intentional set of practices that help us to keep company with Jesus.
 - Share Jesus. Verse 4 highlights that Jesus had completed the work the Father had given him to do. We too, like Jesus, have been given work to do from God. Will we, like Jesus, be faithful and obedient to the point where we can confidently say we completed that work? We share Jesus as we live a life of service to others, and as we act as ambassadors for Jesus in whatever context we find ourselves in. Look at Matthew 5:16, we are to live in such a way that our good works are seen by others, which will bring glory to the Father (i.e. Jesus is "shared").

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from the message and John 17:1-5
2. Do you, like Jesus, ever pray for yourself? What do those prayers entail?
3. How do your prayers, like Jesus, aim at bringing glory to God?
4. How would you describe what it means to "walk with Jesus"? If you engaged in creating a rule of life in January, how is it going? What struggles are you encountering, what benefits have you experienced?
5. What would you describe the work God has given you to be? How are you at being faithful in doing that work?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days? What would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also, ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of April 2, 2023

Living the Life: A Study on Jesus' Last Words

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teachings from April 2, 2023

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reading of Scripture. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the passage provided, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: Psalm 1

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, John 17:6-26

This portion of scripture is often called the "High Priestly Prayer". Pastor Adam taught on this section, highlighting the following:

- As we read Jesus' prayer, we get a glimpse into Jesus' heart for us as His followers. Asking someone, "How can I pray for you?" Is a question that gets to someone's heart. Jesus asks 5 things for us in this prayer, revealing His heart and will for us. **That we would:**
 - 1) **...be kept in the name of the Father** (v.11). Moses was given the name of God (Ex.3:13-14) which he used to lead the people of God. Jesus' ministry mirrors that of Moses. God's name is not just how we refer to Him, but it communicates His character and nature. To be kept in His name is to live according to His will and under His rule and reign.
 - 2) **...be kept from the evil one** (v.15). Jesus recognized that living by God's name would result in opposition both from the world, but also from the enemy. Read: John 10:10 and 1.Pet.5:8. Jesus prays for our protection and deliverance from this spiritual opposition.
 - 3) **...be sanctified in the truth** (v.17-18): To be made Holy, which is not simply moral perfection (though is an element of God's holiness), but to be holy is to be "set apart". Israel was holy, set apart as God's people. The church is holy, set apart as God's people for His plans and purposes. To be made holy by truth is to live by and ever deepening into the truth of God. To see the world as He sees it and engage with it accordingly.
 - 4) **... be one** (v.21). Not overrun by division, not scattered, not tearing one another down, but united. The call to follow Jesus is simultaneously a call to community. A community that is unified.
 - 5) **... experience union with God** (v.21). Christian experience is more than an imitation of the life and teaching of Jesus. It is the present experience of the risen Christ indwelling our hearts by the Spirit.
- These prayers, while anticipating abundant life and joy for followers of Jesus, are purposed for mission (to bring glory to God and proclaim the word of Jesus). The disciples are to glorify the Son in word and deed and lead others into a saving knowledge of Jesus.
- Prayer is involving in that in prayer we are welcomed into participating in God's work. We need to be active participants in seeing these prayers come to pass in our lives.
- We participate in these prayers of Jesus by living according to God's word, putting in every effort to achieve unity, and intentionally continue in Jesus' mission.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from the message and John 17:6-26
2. What other "names" do you see people living under?
3. Do you feel your life with Jesus is opposed? Spiritually? By the culture? How do you respond to that opposition?
4. What is keeping you from experiencing unity with others and union with God? How do you practice union with God?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days? What would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also, ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of April 9, 2023

Living the Life: A Study on Jesus' Last Words

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teachings from April 9, 2023

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reading of Scripture. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the passage provided, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading (to be read aloud twice): 1 Corinthians 5:21

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, John 20. The first Easter Morning

- Jesus' resurrection from the dead is the most significant event in human history. We are invited to experience it personally as life-changing news and our ultimate source of joy.
- The resurrection is a historic event. John presents the empty tomb in such as an eye-witness account. Verse 8-10 are significant and speak to the recorded witness of the empty tomb by John and Peter. Consider 1 Corinthians 15:12-17 in light of considering the resurrection as history.
- The fact that Christianity began in Jerusalem is very significant in speaking to the event's historicity. The fact of the resurrection is a truth we must consider
- The resurrection creates new relationships between Jesus and those who trust in Him. Mary believed the empty tomb meant further brokenness between her and Jesus, BUT it was actually the basis for their new relationship. Because of sin, humanity is separated from God and is desperately in need of reconciliation. Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection mediates a new relationship between those who trust in Jesus and the Father.
- Jesus rose from the dead not only to restore relationship, but also to continue His work. Jesus continues his work through us, we are sent.
- Jesus demonstrated being sent by God as He demonstrated acting as god's representative, He did God's work, acted in complete obedience and dependence to God. Not only are we sent by Jesus, but are also given the resourcing we need to carry in Jesus' work as we are given the Spirit.
- Thomas is a template for us who read the story of Jesus from a distance. We hear the report, read the gospel and at once are challenged to believe.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from the message and John 20?
2. Have you ever doubted the history of the resurrection? How have you wrestled through that doubt?
3. How did you come to first believe in Jesus? Share a brief testimony.
4. How do you feel about being sent by Jesus in the same way Jesus was sent by the Father? How might you engage in this commission in the context of your current commitments?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days? What would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also, ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of April 16, 2023
Living the Life: A Study on Jesus' Last Words

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teachings from April 16, 2023

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reading of Scripture. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the passage provided, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading (to be read aloud twice): Philippians 4:8-9

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, John 21. This chapter concludes John's gospel and documents an encounter between Jesus and His disciples after His resurrection and before His ascension. Pastor Norb spoke on this passage in the context of TCC's 20th Birthday celebration service.

From the passage he highlighted the following:

- By going fishing, Peter takes comfort in what is familiar in the midst of very intense circumstances.
- Jesus offers help and advice to their failed fishing attempt. The Lord allows us to experience frustration and failure to help us rely on Him more.
- By responding in obedience to what Jesus called them to do, the disciples achieve a miraculous catch of fish. Jesus provides not only a lot of fish, but also keeps the nets from tearing. Obedience is met with blessing, abundance and provision.
- The catch of fish parallels the fishing metaphor as it relates to evangelism. One of the primary tasks of the church is evangelism. This account demonstrates how God will work through our obedience as we labour in the work of evangelism.
- Jesus question to Peter of, "do you love me more than these", invites us to consider our own love for Jesus in comparison to our love for our possessions, careers, and other comforts.
- Jesus restores Peter. This account parallels strongly Peter's denial of Jesus. Both accounts take place around a fire and feature 3 questions and 3 responses of Peter. This act of restoration makes clear to Peter, and to us, that before serving Jesus we need to love Jesus; this is our highest and greatest priority. (c.f Matt. 22:34-40)
- Norb challenged us that we need to be honest about our love for Jesus and that we need to cultivate our love for Him by intentionally spending time with Him.
- Jesus' concluding words to Peter teach us that we should not compare ourselves to others, but need to simply follow.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from the message and John 21?
2. In difficult seasons, where do you turn to for comfort? How might Jesus meet you in that place and offer restoration?
3. To what situation of your life do you hope Jesus will offer you advice? What do you sense Him calling you to do?
4. What are some differences between loving Jesus and serving Jesus? How may you prioritize love over service?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days? What would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also, ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.

Pray for TCC: Praise God for 20 years of ministry and join together in submitting all the coming years to God.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of April 23, 2023
Living the Life: A Study on Jesus' Last Words

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teachings from April 23, 2023

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reading of Scripture. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the passage provided, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading (to be read aloud twice): Psalm 90:12-17

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, Genesis 2:8-15, Colossians 3:23-24. These passages were taught on by Pastor Adam on the Sunday he was ordained. In this context, he taught the following:

- Genesis demonstrates that God is one who works, and that His work is good.
- Humans are created to have dominion: "To actively partner with God in taking the World forward" 1:28, God created us to work.
- In Eden, Adam and Eve "worked and kept" the garden. (Gen. 2:15)
- Work exists before the fall, it is not something we need to be saved from. Before sin entering into the human story, humans work. The vision for work is participation with God in cultivating His goodness, beauty and righteousness. This is contrast to cultural messages of workaholism (working for the wrong reasons) and "working for the weekend" (seeing work as something to be freed from).
- Recognize that your first and primary calling is to follow Jesus and that you will follow Jesus in the context of your work.
- Christians must resist a "sacred secular" divide which tempts us to see some aspects of our lives as spiritual, or part of our discipleship to Jesus and others as not. Romans 12 and Colossians 3 illustrate that we are to follow Jesus in every area of our lives and to see our work as an opportunity to do the work of God.
- Colossians 3 helps us to understand that Jesus is the one we are working for and that everything we do is work for the Lord.
- We each must seek to engage in our unique role of working towards God's vision of human flourishing understanding that we are each uniquely positioned to bring out God's beauty, goodness and righteousness.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from the message and Genesis 2:8-15, Colossians 3:23-24?
2. How do you view your work, or engagement with daily commitments, in light of your discipleship to Jesus? Did the message challenge this thinking and/or offer a new perspective?
3. In what ways do you see your unique position to bring about God's beauty, goodness, and righteousness?
4. Frederick Buechner writes, "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." Where would you identify your deep gladness? How may that intersect with the world's hunger?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days? What would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also, ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.

