



Condemned on Earth, Applauded in Heaven

CATCH UP ON LIFE:

This is when we update each other on the things that Jesus has been up to in our lives since we last saw each other. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

Suggested time: 20-30 minutes

- When were you most aware of Jesus' presence this week?
- When were you least aware of Jesus' presence this week?

REVIEW THE MISSION:

Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us out as ambassadors of His reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go because Jesus changes everything. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

Suggested time: 10-20 minutes

1. People:

- Reactive - Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?
- Proactive - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (neighbors, STC partner organizations, or a specific demographic in Columbia)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve, and build relationships with this group?

SERVE THE CITY - WEEKEND -



We're asking all LifeGroups to participate in Serve the City Weekend on March 26. If you haven't yet, go ahead and discuss as a group which organization you're partnering with and have everyone sign up now at STCWeekend.com.

- ### 2. Plan:
- Are there any rhythms already planned, or an extra rhythm we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?

Pray: *Prayer is the fuel of God's mission. Let's pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.*

SERMON DISCUSSION:

God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, show us our sin, and strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a LifeGroup throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25)

Suggested Time: 20-40 minutes

I. Scripture Discussion

Primary Passages: Acts 6-7

Read **Acts 6:8-15**, **Acts 7:54-60**, and **Matthew 5:10-12** out loud. Then, spend some time silently reflecting and journaling the following questions as a LifeGroup. (These questions can be used with any passage of the Bible to study on your own.)

- What stands out from the passage?
- What does the passage reveal to us about God?
- What does the passage reveal to us about people?

Share with one another what you thought, reflected, and wrote about.

II. Sermon Discussion

What stood out to you from the sermon? Why is that?

Based on Stephen's example, we said in the sermon that Christians acting faithfully can be condemned on Earth while being applauded in heaven.

Are there any areas of your life where you feel that being faithful to Jesus may lead to being condemned by others?

What might "saying the right thing at the right time" look like for you when it comes to your regular conversations with coworkers/friends/neighbors who aren't Christians? (Try to be as specific as you can.)

What might "saying the right thing at the right time" look like for you when it comes to your interactions with other believers in Jesus or those in LifeGroup? Are there ways you need to grow in being willing to confront others and risk conflict? (Try to be as specific as you can.)

Pray: Spend some time as a LifeGroup praying for your conversations with non-Christians you hang out with this week. Ask God to present opportunities for you to be a witness, saying the right thing at the right time and trusting God with whatever happens

As we move into Engage the Heart, pray for the Spirit to soften our hearts - that we might lovingly confront any potential blind spots in the other and boldly speak the gospel into each others lives.

ENGAGE THE HEART:

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)

Suggested Time: 20-40 minutes

What has Jesus been teaching you this week through abiding with Him (Bible reading and prayer)?

What sin(s) do you need to confess to God? What are you struggling to trust Jesus with this week? How can you give Him control of it?

Where have you seen victory over sin in the last week? Where have you been encouraged in your walk with Jesus in the last week?

Pray: James tells us that a community that regularly confesses sin and prays for each other will see a lot of healing. Confess your sins to God in prayer and pray for each other. **Pray** for the Spirit to work in you as you take steps of repentance.