

CHURCHES & PLAGUES

1. 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

Take some time to look back at your answers in the Lent Guide this week under Evening Prayer:

- What can you thank God for this week?
- When were you most aware of Jesus' presence this week?
- When were you least aware of Jesus' presence this week?

2. 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. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

Suggested time: 10-20 minutes

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?

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.

3. Scripture & 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: Psalm 46:1-11

Read **Psalm 46:1-11** out loud. Spend some time silently reflecting and journaling the following questions as a LifeGroup:

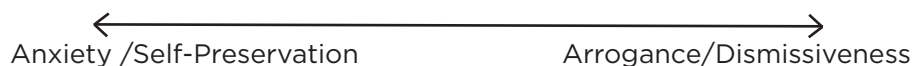
- What stands out from the passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about God?
- What does this passage reveal to us about people?

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

ii. Sermon Discussion

What stood out to you from the sermon?

In the sermon, we said we tend to fall on a continuum with arrogance/dismissiveness on one end and anxiety/self-protection on the other end. In this last week, where would you place yourself on that continuum?



In the sermon, we said that as Christians, our motivation should be neighbor love, rather than self-protection or dismissiveness. What's a practical way you can model Jesus to love and serve your neighbor and LifeGroup this week?

Let's take some time to pray out loud for the following:

- Those infected and at risk
- Those in the medical field and other jobs that are put in risky situations
- Those whose income will be affected
- For wisdom not to give in to anxiety or arrogance but to instead be marked by love

For LifeGroup training and resources, go to MidtownLifeGroups.com

This week we're abstaining from non-essential phone and Internet usage. In light of current events, we understand if you decided to opt-out. For those that fasted this week, how's that going?

4. 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

Take some time to look back at your answers in the Lent Guide this week under Morning Reading and Evening Prayer:

- How are you abiding with Jesus (Bible reading and prayer) this week? What has Jesus been teaching you through these practices?
- What sin 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?
- Has the Holy Spirit been prompting you to do anything that you've been resisting? What step(s) do you need to take to walk in obedience?

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.

For resources on how to study the Bible, be in community, and more spiritual practices, go to FollowingJesusTogether.com