



Week 14 | Dogs, Pigs, Specks, and Planks

Take this week or next week together as a LifeGroup to go through the LifeGroup Health Survey instead of the LifeGroup Guide. You can scan the QR code below using the camera on your smartphone or follow [this link](#). Leaders, please refer to your Groups Team Update email for more directions.



For LifeGroup training resources check out [MidtownLifeGroups.com](https://www.midtownlife.com)

1. Catch Up On Life:

As a 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, 15).

Suggested time: 10-20 minutes

- How are you doing?
- 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?
- Do you have any practical needs? (If so, please visit our [Needs](#) page)

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:** Who in your life can you be building with right now? What does that look like during this season?
- **Plan:** Are there any rhythms planned (virtual or in-person) that we can invite these friends into? What spiritual conversations do you want to initiate with them soon?
- **Pray:** Let's pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, opportunities to connect, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.

For tools and resources to grow in your walk with Jesus, go to [FollowingJesusTogether.com](https://www.followingjesus.com)

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 (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12, and James 1:22-25).

Suggested Time: 20-40 minutes

i. Scripture Discussion

Primary Passages: **Matthew 7:1-6**

Read **Matthew 7:1-6** 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 passage, we see Jesus teaching us how to appropriately address sin and offer corrective truth to others. The tendency is we either lean towards silence, refusing to talk to the other person, or we lean towards judgment by either talking down to them or gossiping about them.

Of these two pitfalls, which do you lean towards? Why?

Jesus tells before we address sin in others, we need to first see our sin as the bigger problem, or else we will fall into silence or judgment towards others. Which relationships do you tend to view their sin as a bigger deal than yours? (Examples can include marriage, roommates, coworkers, children, etc)

Why is that? What does that relationship look like?

Let's spend some time praying for ourselves, that we would be people who see our sin as a bigger problem than the sin we see in others. Because Jesus has fully dealt with our sin, we can humbly confess our sin and from there, lovingly correct others. Pray now.

As we move into Engage the Heart and each person confesses sin, let's also welcome follow-up questions and correction from others in our LifeGroup. A person in LifeGroup cannot offer correction until they've first confessed their sin to the LifeGroup.

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: 10-20 minutes

- How are you doing abiding with Jesus this week in Scripture and prayer? (If you haven't yet, consider following along in our [Matthew Bible Reading Plan](#) and working through our practice for this series, [journaling](#).)
- What sin do you need to confess to God? (As people confess sin, make sure to remind one another of the good news Jesus offers. If need be, use the worksheet "Go-to Verses for Gospel Fluency" at [FollowingJesusTogether.com/confession](#))

Pray: Close your time together by praying for one another

- Pray for the Spirit to work in you as you take steps of repentance
- Pray for God to meet the needs of those in your group
- Pray for the sick and vulnerable at this time of crisis