



WEEK 7 | GOSPEL FRIENDSHIPS AND GOSPEL GOODBYES

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

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

For LifeGroup training resources check out MidtownLifeGroups.com

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 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?
- ### 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.*

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

1. SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

Primary Passage: **Philippians 2:19-30**

For tools and resources to grow in your walk with Jesus, go to FollowingJesusTogether.com

Read **Philippians 2:19-30** out loud. 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 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 Timothy and Epaphroditus have a shared friendship with Paul and a shared commissioning from Paul. Both of which are made possible because they all have a shared foundation in Jesus.

In your friendships, do you tend to err towards being closed-handed or being closed-off? What does that look like? Why is that?

Because our foundation is in Jesus, our friendships are freed up to make much of Him, not us. In light of that:

- How are you investing in your Jesus-centered friendships? If you're not investing in others, what's one thing you can put in place to do so?
- With your Jesus-centered friendships, how can you leverage that to be on mission?

*Following
Jesus
Together*

As a LifeGroup, watch this week's video:
<https://vimeo.com/563378129>
How's practicing gratitude gone for you this last week? (If you're having difficulty, how can the LifeGroup help you put a plan in place?)
What's one thing you're grateful for this week?

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

We fight deceitful ideas with truth. We do this regularly through resources like the Digging Deeper Chart, Go-to Verses for Gospel Fluency, and the Truth Train. All of these tools are available at FollowingJesusTogether.com/confession

How are you abiding with Jesus (Bible reading and prayer) this week?

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.*