



THE BAD WON'T LAST FOREVER

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?

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

Read **1 Peter 5:6-11, Ephesians 2:4-6, John 16:33 & Romans 5:3-5** 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 the passage reveal to us about God?
- What does the passage reveal to us about people?

Share with one another what you thought and wrote about.

II. Sermon Discussion

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

In the sermon, we said when suffering hits, we can respond in one of the following ways:

- Filtering - "I'm suffering because there's something wrong with me."
- Catastrophizing - "I'm suffering because this always happens to me."
- Zooming in - "I can't move on from my suffering."
- Avoiding - "I want to move on from my suffering as quickly as possible."

Of the four responses, how do you tend to respond? Why is that?

In the sermon, we offered three ways to rehearse our hope to prepare for suffering:

- Celebrate God's faithfulness
- Recognize God's current activity
- Remember that today is not the end

Which of those three do you tend to forget? Practically what does it look like to lean into that?



In LifeGroups, we are memorizing **1 Peter 5:6-11**. Have someone in the group read the entire verse aloud right now.

Go around reciting 1 Peter 5:6-10 from memory.

Our homework is to memorize 1 Peter 5:11 by this time next week.

Which of the five practices below have you started putting in place? How is it going? What's been challenging? How have you seen the Lord at work since committing to this practice?

[Meditation/Abiding
Journaling](#)

[Community
Gratitude](#)

[Serving](#)

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.*