

Stories of the New Testament

Working on the Sabbath

GOAL- Lifegroups are an environment to grow closer to Jesus and each other. We work toward this by focusing on the stories of the Bible, discussing them and applying them to our lives. How do these teachings apply today?

REMINDER- Enjoy time visiting with each other, eating etc. After time simply connecting, and hanging out, please intentionally follow these steps created to promote and strengthen our relationship with Jesus.

Step 1- Welcome- Celebrate successes, breakthroughs, service projects, decisions for Christ etc.

Step 2- Opening Prayer

Step 3- Lifegroup Purpose/ Vision Casting- Each week we want to establish where we are within the story, where is Jesus and where we need to be as a result of this understanding. We are meeting together because we love Jesus, each other and we are creating disciples who will be able to create disciples.

Step 4- Review the Lifegroup Guidelines (Back Page)

Step 5- Reflection/Accountability- What stuck with you during the last week(s) from our last meeting and the scripture that we covered? How did you apply that scripture to your everyday life?

Step 6- Preparing Our Heart to Experience a Lifegroup- Ask everyone to stay personally engaged throughout the story. Ask them to focus on how they relate to it and why. Encourage everyone to share from their hearts, to be transparent and authentic. Every person will share.

Step 7- Setting the Scene for Working on the Sabbath (Mark 2:23-28 and Mark 3:1-6)

LEADERS, READ THIS- *We are called to do everything out of love. We are also called to love others the way the Jesus has loved us. Why do our hearts sometimes focus on the negative, holding others to the letter of the law while excusing ourselves from upholding the same law? I pray that our study today will open our eyes to our shortcomings in this area and to the intent of the law through the lens of God's goodness, mercy and love.*

As you listen, immerse yourself in the story and be thinking of the questions you will be answering afterward...

*Currently, in this season of your life..... **Who or What do you personally identify with and why?***

Step 8- Telling the Story from Memory- Either yourself or someone else in the group tells the story from memory. You can ask someone ahead of time to be prepared to do this. **(From either or both scriptures being studied today)** After they finish telling the story, ask the group if there are there any other stories that come to mind about working on the Sabbath?

Step 9- Rebuild the Story- Read the story from the Word as a group **(Mark 2:23-28 and Mark 3:1-6)**.

Step 10- Debrief the Story- Everyone participates and answers the question; Currently, in this season of your life, **Who or What do you identify with and why? How can YOU respond in the next week(s)?**

LEADERS, READ THIS-

Are you Jesus? *Jesus addressed incorrect hearts, motives and actions with truth from the Word. Are you comfortable enough in your relationship with Jesus and your knowledge of the Word to do the same, in love? He saw the hurt around him, saw the need and met the need, willing to place Himself in the line of fire.*

Are you the Disciples? *Do you feel like your following of Jesus has been viewed by others under a microscope?*

Are you the Pharisees? *Do you have a tendency to focus on the words of the law, missing the heart, intent and fulfillment of the law?*

Are you the man whose hand was healed? *He was asked to hold out his hand. There was an action step he had to take in order to receive healing and restoration. Do you need to take that same step of faith?*

Are you the critics in the synagogue? *Do you or have you found yourself watching and waiting for people in the church to screw up? If so, what do you do with the error when it happens? Talk about it with others? Stew over it in your mind and heart?*

Additional Option?

Further Study- What is the Point? How do we need to Respond?

1. Fields of Grain- *Leviticus 19:9-10, Deuteronomy 23:25*

What was the intent of this law? *Exodus 34:21*

2. How does the law apply?

Romans 5:20-6:2, Romans 7:4-12, Romans 8:3-4, Romans 10:1-4, Galatians 2:16-21, Galatians 3:19-21

3. How can we challenge the condition of our heart and become more like Jesus? The pharisees were breaking God's law by plotting the murder of Jesus in response to what they considered to be a broken law.

Proverbs 4:23, Proverbs 21:2, Proverbs 27:19, Matthew 15:1-9, Mark 7:14-15, Deuteronomy 6:4-5, John 15:12

Pray for a renewed heart and mind

Psalms 139:1, 23-24, Jeremiah 32:39, 2 Thessalonians 3:5, 1 John 5:14-15

Step 11- Close in Prayer

LIFEGROUPS GUIDELINES- Please use these guidelines while you meet to ensure a safe growing environment. The leader ensures throughout the group meeting that these guidelines are met. If you have a member that needs more personalized attention, set up an appointment outside of group time.

- **Safe Environment-** This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening and sharing with one another. Below are some Lifegroup guidelines that will help to create a safe environment.
- **Confidentiality-** What is said at group, stays at group.
- **Listen-** Let's value one another during the discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you will respond or what you are going to say next.
- **Pause-** Allow a pause in conversation after someone shares. Give the person sharing a chance to finish and the group the opportunity to consider what was just shared before responding.
- **Silence-** It is important to allow silence in the group as it provides an opportunity for someone to share and members of the group to process the topic or question being considered.
- **No "Cross Talk"-** Be considerate of others as they are sharing- no side conversations.
- **No Fixing-** We are not here to fix each other. Jesus does that part. Give encouragement, speak truth, point to Jesus. Don't try to solve or fix each other.
- **No Rescuing-** When people are sharing something deeply personal, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or the situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause them to stop sharing. Resist the temptation to rescue people. **Point people to Jesus.**
- **Sharing-** Be sensitive about the amount of time that you share, both under sharing and oversharing.
- **Be Self Aware-** Be self-aware of how you are personally affecting the environment through your words, actions and nonverbal communication.
- **"I" Statements-** It is easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use "I" statements rather than "them", "the church", "us", "we", etc.
- **Conflict-** We will commit to resolve conflict biblically. When conflict or sin issues between group members arise, we want to make sure that we are honoring God and each other in the way we deal with these issues. The following are a few key scriptures in this regard (there are many others).