

Life of Christ

A study of the life and teachings of Jesus

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 2 | To Hear and To Do

Week of September 20, 2020



Life Group Schedule

- PREP** Review the weekend service online. Read through each Scripture reference prayerfully. Invite the Holy Spirit to show you any correction you need to make around this week's topic. Be willing to be open, humble, and honest with your group about what He is showing you.
- 10 MIN** Log In, chat, check on everybody! Remember, be a facilitator of conversation, not a preacher! Talk little, listen more, and have fun! Keep in mind we do this for community and for each of us to grow closer in our relationships with God.
- 15 MIN** ICE BREAKER: Several ice breaker game suggestions can be located at [BIT.LY/NLCLIFEGROUP_ICEBREAKERS](https://bit.ly/NLCLIFEGROUP_ICEBREAKERS). Take your pick, and enjoy the game together!

TRANSITION: SPEND SOME TIME IN WORSHIP & PRAYER

30-45 MIN | THE PARABLE OF THE SOILS—TO HEAR AND TO DO

MATTHEW 7:24-27

- 2020 has been a crazy year! Anything that can be shaken is being shaken.
- No matter what we're in, He wants us close to Him.
- In the Parable of the Soils, you've only got two options. There is no neutral position.
 - › You're either building on the Rock or on the sand, which determines the success of your life.

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THIS STORY

- **What these guys have in common:**
 - › Both have the same dream: building a house!
 - › Both want success, have a strong marriage and a great family.
 - › Both had the same teacher: Jesus!
 - › Both went through the same storm, the same problems, the same adversity.

- **Everybody goes through storms! They're unavoidable.**
 - › Analogy: Some of your mail has your name on it, others are addressed to "Occupant."
 - › You will go through storms simply because you are an occupant, occupying space in this world where rain, storms, and winds come. Storms happen to everybody.
 - › Don't avoid the flood but stand in the middle of the flood.
 - › Storms never destroy people. The sand does.
- **What these guys do not have in common:**
 - › The first decided to built his house on Rock. That takes a plan, strategy, thoughtfulness, effort and energy. It's not easy to build on rock. There is cost & sacrifice. It's way more expensive to build on rock than sand. This guy was willing to pay whatever price it takes.
 - › The other decided to build his house on sand. Why? It didn't take much effort; he got it done overnight, then was lounging on beach while other guy was still working.
 - › A bad foundation looks like patchwork: In your marriage, your parenting, etc., you're trying to patch things up, when the real problem is the foundation you're on. You have to get the foundation right.
 - › One applied the Word, the other didn't.
 - › One heard it, said amen, then did it. The other heard it, then lived his life his own way.
 - › You can't build a skyscraper out of your life when your foundation is only strong enough for a chicken coop.
 - › When you hear the word of God but don't do the work of applying it it's like putting on the workout clothes but not sweating in them. You may feel better about yourself, but you're not bettering yourself at all.

How do you become a wise person?

1. Wise people Go Back to loving Jesus.

- It's not just, "I know I need to do this."

Q1. Check: Where is the passionate love of Jesus right now in your life? Where is it at, and where does it need to be?

- Marcus mentioned that Brook's #1 love language is acts of service. Jesus has a love language, too! It's Hear and Do. Hear what I say, and put it into practice.

JOHN 14:15

- Our desire for you this season is being IN the Word, able to say "I met with God and He spoke something fresh to me."
 - › Maybe He corrected something in you, and you now know what you need to be doing today. Fresh air in your soul; fresh spiritual baked bread in your family.
 - › Being in the Word will change the way you pray.
- Just because our need for God goes up, that doesn't mean our love for God is

going up at the same time.

- Moses at the Red Sea: “God I need you! Could you just part this Red Sea?”
 - › My prayer: “I need You to make a way where there’s no way, God.”
- Solomon: I need wisdom.”
 - › My prayer: “God, everything’s going crazy right now! Could you give me wisdom?”
- Psalm 27—But the heart of David is a different heart.
 - › David: “This one thing I ask, and this I seek, that I may dwell in Your house and gaze upon Your beauty.”
 - › My prayer: “That’s a different heart right there, God. I just want to be with You because I want to be close to You. God, I need this kind of heart. I want to be closer to You.”

Q2. What kinds of things are you praying about normally these days? Do you spend time appreciating Him? Thanking Him? Do you desire to be closer to Him, or have you slipped into a habit of just taking your list of needs to Him?

- Pray: Lord, help me love you like I need to love you.
 - › Slow down and get the distractions out of your life. Breathe, and taste and see that the Lord is good.
- When you do that in your life, when you pray that way, your spiritual taste buds change.

2. Wise people put God’s word into practice.

Q3. How do you make God’s word your foundation?

- It’s your foundation when that’s where you start.
 - › When you have an issue, a problem, what is the first thing you do? That’s your foundation! If you call your parents, text a friend, watch Dr Phil. That’s your foundation.
 - › When things arise in your life, you say, “I’m gonna do what the Bible says. What does the Bible say?”
 - › Find out what the Bible says, THEN call your parents, talk to your life group. Whatever you put first, THAT is the foundation of your life.
- It’s your foundation when you do what it says, when you activate it.
 - › Like a motion-sensored light on a dark night, the Word of God is motion-activated. When you begin to apply it, there is power that comes behind it.
 - › When God spoke to Moses at the Red Sea, “Moses lift up your staff over the water,” when Moses *obeyed* the Word, then the water parted.
 - › Joshua at the Jordan River: God says, “Tell the priests to dip their feet in the water,” When they heard the word and *acted on it*, the waters parted.
 - › Jesus tells Mary: “Roll the stone away.” When she heard the word and *did it*, Lazarus came out of the tomb.
 - › There’s supernatural power when you activate the Word of God.
 - › The Queen of England has elevated authority but no power.
 - › We often run our families and homes this way, with authority but no power to help when you’re in your greatest need.

CHALLENGE: EVERY DAY FEED ON THE WORD OF JESUS, AND THEN BE BOTH A HEARER AND A DOER.

- Be committed to this, but get people around you in your life who will ask you the hard question: What are you gonna do with what you read today?

TAKE PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAY OVER NEEDS

CONFIRM OR SCHEDULE YOUR NEXT MEETING, WHETHER LIVE OR VIRTUAL

Leaders: Please share your email address and cell numbers. Be available!

- For more ideas, check out [VIRTUAL LIFE GROUP PLAN](#).
- As Life Group leaders—the hands, feet and voice of Jesus—remember “CPR”:
 - › C – Check-In and Care for People at least weekly
 - › P – Pray with and for them often
 - › R – Remember Scripture. God’s Word is powerful!
- Group Participation Guideline Reminders:
 - › Do not share anything that will embarrass anyone, including your spouse.
 - › If called on you may pass on any questions you do not want to answer.
 - › Allow time for everyone to share; do not dominate the conversation.
 - › What is said in the group stays in the group. Use common sense and know when something shared is personal and should remain confidential.

For Daily Prayer: The following linked resources can help strengthen our prayer lives

- [Foundations, Session 4: “WHAT IS PRAYER?”](#)
- [THE LORD’S PRAYER PATTERN](#)
- [THE PRAYER OF JABEZ PRAYER PATTERN](#)
- [THE TRINITY PRAYER PATTERN](#)

