



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

For the sermon preached on
5/10/2020:
"Sacred Space"
1 Peter 3:8-9

How to use the Study Guide During Our “Stay at Home” Online Group Meetings

Group life is even more critical during this incredible season. Over and over, group leaders are reporting that suddenly there is a new hunger to connect, share, pray, and meditate on Scripture together and so we are making these guides available weekly and suggesting a new format during this season.

As you know, our Group Life’s vision is to “practice the way of Jesus.” And while Jesus never had to lead a Torah study over Zoom, he was strategic in his teaching ministry, and we want to be as well.

There are a number of differences between meeting in person and meeting online, ranging from the obvious to the subtle. One is, given our attention spans for online meetings, we want to encourage you to limit the length of your call between 45-60 minutes and we are calling this “Check-In Plus One.” Meaning, spend a few minutes checking in with your group and see if there are any new needs with them (or even amongst their neighbors). “The One” is to spend time in study. As our Stay at Home continues, our desire for meaningful content and interaction will grow. Given our new format, the study guides based on Sunday’s Sermon will be designed to be more application based (as opposed to unpacking the text with the Inductive Bible Study method). You might consider sharing the passage beforehand with your group in hopes that they might spend more time with the Scripture before the gathering.

As always, we are so grateful for you, your gifting, your servant leadership, and all that you do in practicing the way of Jesus in community.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Tim, on behalf of the Group Life Team

For the Leader: “Check-In Plus One”

Welcome everyone to the Zoom call and outline the goal of this call being 45 minutes. Spend 15-20 minutes checking in with one another, then move into a time of prayer, and then spend some time discussing the application of the Scripture passage.

A “Check-in” question might be, “How are you doing, and is there anything new that has arisen in your life or in your neighborhood that we can pray about?”

For the Group:

As mentioned, throughout our Stay at Home quarantine we have shortened our study, given the confinements and attention spans on Zoom calls. So these three questions are designed to be less inductive, and more practical. Let's get started.

This is Week 4 in our "What Now" series, and Pastors Bryan and Tim tag-teamed to bring a message called "Sacred Space."

Q – Pastor Bryan defined sacredness as "connected to God, or dedicated to a religious purpose." Chances are you have a set of sacred spaces. Describe your favorite one and what comes to your mind when you think of sacred spaces?

Q – Pastor Tim mentioned that sacred space is not just about physical square footage but also includes our emotional and spiritual space. How does sacredness influence those spaces in your life?

Q – Peter writes "do not let your prayers be hindered." (1 Pet. 3:7b). In what ways can someone's prayer life be hindered? And what can we do to be unhindered in prayer and in living the sacred way of Jesus? (The two are connected).

In closing, let's meditate on these verses and ask the Lord for the strength to live them out: "Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing."

1 Peter 3:8-9

Let's pray ...