



“Self-Control in a Time of Self-Fulfillment”

October 17, 2021
CG Discussion Guide

CATCHING 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 A 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: 10 minutes

- What can you thank God for this week?
- 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: 10-15 minutes*

- People:
 - 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?
 - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (neighbors, Serve CLT partner organizations, or a specific demographic in Charlotte)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve, and build relationships with this group?
- Plan:
 - Are there any hangouts already planned, or an extra hangout 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.

SCRIPTURE AND 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 Community Group throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25) · *Suggested Time: 30-40 minutes*

Read Matthew 16:21-27 and recap the sermon.

1. What stood out to you from the Scriptures or the sermon? What comforted you? What convicted you?
2. In the sermon, we said that we are tempted to find self-fulfillment in (1) what we do, (2) what we have, (3) who we have, and (4) our desires. Which of these do you see most strongly in your life and how do you need to repent in light of it?
3. When you think about the fruit of self-control, do you tend to view it as your strength or Christ's strength in you? How does knowing that our self-control is Christ's power in us help in your fight against temptation?
4. What are the specific ways you want Jesus to be savior and friend, but not Lord in your life? How are you trying to follow Jesus and get your vision of the good life too?
5. How can you rest this week in the good news that the fruit of self-control leads to fulfillment and reward to come?
6. [If time] Go back through the fruit of the spirit from this series (<https://www.citizenscharlotte.com/fruit-of-the-spirit>).
 - a. Which one do you want to continue to grow in moving forward once this series is done? What is your plan to do that?
7. Pray for your CG and our church to cultivate the fruit of self-control in our lives.

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: 30-45 minutes