



Living Faith Welcomes

January 30, 2022
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 James 1:27-2:13 and Recap the Sermon.

1. What stood out to you from the Scriptures or the sermon? What comforted you? What convicted you?

Read James 1:27-2:3.

In the sermon, we gave five categories for the "poor" that we tend to discriminate against based on a variety of factors. They were:

1. *Poor in wealth - those who are financially needy or less well off than us*
 2. *Poor in life stage - those who are behind us or in front of us in a life stage*
 3. *Poor in maturity - those who still struggle with things we think we've moved past (sin, suffering, etc)*
 4. *Poor in mind or body - those who are less attractive than us, or those who are uneducated*
 5. *Poor in personality - those who are dull, complain, or are hard to hang out with*
2. Is there a category above that you see in your own life? Is there a particular way you are tempted to discriminate based on any of the above factors? How is James 2 helpful for revealing and convicting you of that?

Read James 2:4-12.

In the sermon, we said that partiality is wrong because it is (1) against God's heart and (2) against God's law.

3. How do these two truths about why partiality is wrong help you (1) repent from ways you've shown partiality and (2) desire to have the grit to move towards those who you would otherwise move away from?

Read James 2:13.

In the sermon we said that the power to welcome others comes from God's eternal welcome to us in Christ Jesus.

4. How does this eternal welcome (the good news of the gospel) - that Jesus welcomes you despite your spiritual poverty - both compel and empower you to welcome in others?

Time of Prayer.

5. Pray for our church - that we would be a welcoming people. That as a church we would move towards and welcome those who are different from us, whether those people be in our CG, church family, or our city.

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