

CATALYST CHURCH

LEADER'S GUIDE

ACTS: THIS IS HOW WE CHANGE THE WORLD

Welcome to the Winter session of the 2024 season of Life Group! This first week there are purposely fewer questions than what will be offered in the weeks to come. Take the first meeting to catch up with returning group members and get to know new ones. Take some extra time to connect when everyone comes in or at the table around some food or beverages and some light snacks. Do your best to make everyone feel included. This first impression could make the difference for whether or not your new members return - Put your best foot forward & make it count!

OUR CULTURE IS HUMBLE, HUNGRY, AND HEALTHY //

HERE ARE SOME GOALS FOR THIS FIRST MEETING:

- Cast the vision for this first session and if applicable, go over the Guidelines and Commitment Form.
- Clarify your group's direction / expectations / commitments.
- Briefly discuss the sermon topic (if you're following along w/Pastor Jason).
- Pray for the building of relationships and the spiritual growth of the group.

HERE ARE SOME ITEMS YOU MIGHT NEED FOR THIS FIRST MEETING:

- Name tags and markers. If you have returning members it's helpful they wear one as well for the new members.
- Ice-breaker questions or games
- Enough copies of the Guidelines and Commitment Form

HERE ARE SOME PREPARATION TIPS FOR THIS FIRST MEETING:

- Check your rosters online and CONTACT ALL MEMBERS several days (if possible) before the first meeting and welcome them to the group.
- Provide the location and time of your group, as well as any entrees or snacks to bring (if applicable).
- If your group meets online ensure you send the link to access the meeting room. Confirm with the members they received it and can access it without any issues.

TRANSFORMATION HAPPENS IN CIRCLES //

THIS IS HOW YOU MIGHT MEASURE SUCCESS FROM WEEK-TO-WEEK: DO YOUR BEST TO TRY AND HEAR FROM EVERYONE.

- If food is being included in the group time, try to make sure it's free from being too spicy (sorry, that one's for me), or that it doesn't contain an ingredient that could pose a danger to someone in the group who has food allergies.
- Try to have a place where everyone can put their coats and bags down so they're not being squished between everyone sitting down or at their feet.
- Great lighting and maybe some instrumental music could help make the atmosphere more inviting.
- Pets should not be the first encounter your guests have when it's their first time in your home. Consider keeping your furbabies in a closed-door room until your members feel they are ready to meet them. This may take a few meetings. Do your best not to push your pets on them. You never know who's had a bad history with animals or has allergies to them and may be afraid to say something in a public setting.
- Work the room and make it a point to speak with everyone, especially your newest members. Make a connection even if it seems small. They want to feel like they "fit in" and can learn to trust you just as much as your most seasoned member.
- At the end of group time, thank everyone for coming and refer to them by name as much as possible. It's the little things that make a BIG difference.

BOOK OF ACTS // WEEK 19

PRAYERS AND OPEN DOORS

Jason Brinker - 2/4/24

GROWING TOGETHER

Tell the group about yourself...while singing it!

OR

Would You Rather...

- Be the main character in a movie or a supporting cast member?
- Give up your phone for a day or your car for two weeks?
- Have a dream job that allows you to retire after 30 years or a nightmare job that allows you to retire after 10 years?

GROWING WITH GOD

Read [Acts 12:1-19](#), [John 16:33](#), [Isaiah 26:3](#), [Philippians 4:6-7](#), [Ephesians 3:20-21](#) aloud and go over your sermon notes with one another. (Answer all or some of the questions)

- We celebrated baptisms this weekend and witnessed so many publicly displaying their faith in Jesus Christ. **Take a moment to share your favorite moment from the service this weekend and/or your personal baptism experience.**
- Pastor Jason stated that “Prayer Has Always Been The Response of God’s People In Difficult Times”. The Bible gives us numerous examples of the prayers of some of the people God has chosen to tell His story. Some examples are [King Jehosaphat](#) when facing an army of nations against him , [Hanna](#) when she cried out to the Lord to give her a son, and of course, [Jesus](#) in the Garden of Gethsemene.
 - **What is your response when you are going through difficult times?**
 - **Does someone usually remind you to seek God?**

- God performed miracles for Peter that only He can do. As we read in this weeks message in Acts 12:7-10, when it seemed as though Peter would not be able to remove himself form captivity, God stepped in and removed the chains from Peter’s wrists. Peter and an angel of the Lord walked past not one, but two sets of guards undetected. Finally, when they approached the city’s gate, it opened for them without assistance so Peter could walk out and flee.
 - **Reflect and share with the group some of the miracles that God has performed in your life.**
 - **At the time, who did you credit to for the change in circumstance?**
 - **How many times have you shared this story with someone regardless of their Christian beliefs?**

GROWING IN OBEDIENCE & SCRIPTURE

- Here's the book Pastor Jason quoted from in the opening of this week's message, [The Path of Prayer](#).
 - *"The one concern of the devil is to keep the saints from prayer. Our enemy fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks our wisdom, but trembles when we pray. Prayer turns ordinary mortals into men of power. It brings fire. It brings rain. It brings life. It brings God. There is no power like that of prevailing prayer"*.
- Pastor Jason asked us to visit a previous sermon which may allow you to tie in the prayer aspect of this week's message. The series is titled, "How to Pray" and can be found [here](#).
- Prayer has always been the response of God's people in difficult times because opposition is inevitable.
- When the church prays, God does what only God can do.

GROWING WITH CATALYST PEOPLE

Be sure to follow Catalyst Church on all the major social media platforms for the latest information and words of encouragement.



