

life groups

NLC Life Group Through the Bible Study
CWY & GLR

Week of October 22, 2017

Sermon: The Church God Sees



Life Group Schedule

15 MIN Eat, Meet & Greet

15 MIN Ice Breaker Game: **Collaborative Drawing**. **ITEMS NEEDED:** Paper and pens/pencils for each person, a timer or stopwatch. **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have each person fold their paper into 4 equal sections, then unfold it to be flat again. Tell the players to draw a head anywhere in the upper section, connecting the neck to the top of the second section on the paper. Players then fold their paper over to hide what they drew, leaving only the very bottom of the neck showing to help the next player in their drawing. All players pass their folded papers to the left and accept the paper being handed from the right.

Each time a new paper is given to a player, they must draw the missing section, connecting it to the other person's previous section without actually looking at it. This process will be repeated for the other remaining sections: torso, legs, and feet. Make sure that all players know to leave the very bottom of their drawing visible, so the next person can continue. Time each section to avoid a lengthy game. Once the drawings are complete, check out the crazy creatures!

OPENING PRAYER

45–60 MIN The Church God Sees

LEADERS: IF YOUR LIFE GROUP HASN'T VIEWED PASTOR RICK'S VIDEO YET, HERE'S THE LINK: [The Church God Sees](#)

Q1. What do you love the most about Fall? (Maybe pumpkin spice latte?)

Q2. What do you love the most about New Life Church? What do you love the most about your life group?

- It's impossible to be in love with Jesus and be out of love with what He loves most!
- When we first started NLC, we prayed that God would make it a safe place—safe for the kids, with the Word, with His presence, and with the finances.
- For NLC staff, leaders, and trustees, integrity is everywhere, with healthy checks and balances in every area of our church.
- We all are responsible to maintain integrity within NLC. We must all do our part in the community, in our careers and in this church.
 - › God is asking all of us to be honest, reliable, and faithful here with our lives and with our money.

MATT 6:24 “You cannot serve both God and money.”

- All of Matthew 6 deals with money and the heart. Why did God zero in on “God and money?”

› He knew this would be the hardest place for people to be all in.

MATT 6:21 “For where your treasure (money and investments) is, there your heart will be also.”

JOHN 4:35 “Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.”

- There are 500 verses on prayer, >500 on faith, but over 2000 on money and possessions. Jesus spoke on money in 16 of 38 parables.

MATT 9:36 “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

Q3. If you could dream for a moment about what God wants to do **IN** your life, what would that look like?

Q4. If you could dream for a moment about what God wants to do **THROUGH** you, what would that look like?

HOW IS VISION ENABLED?

- The obvious answer is through investing in the Kingdom of God.
- I pray we don't have a church like this:
HAVE SOMEONE READ HAGGAI 1:6
- If you haven't supported the vision of The Arkansas God Sees, don't look back; just get it right from here on out.

SO WHY IS TITHING IMPORTANT?

TAKE TURNS READING MALACHI 3:6-12

1. THE TITHE IS NOT ABOUT MONEY BUT ABOUT LOVE.

- It's not a financial issue. God doesn't want your money. He wants your heart.
- None of us can love God without loving what He loves.
- Things to remember about God:
 - › He is smarter than you.
 - › He loves you more than you love yourself.
 - › Everything He will ever ask of you is ultimately for your benefit.

REVIEW MALACHI 3:7 AND MATTHEW 6:21

- Blessing is a consequence of obedience to God. Curse is a

consequence of disobedience to God.

2. THE TITHE IS CLEARLY A TEST.

HAVE SOMEONE READ MALACHI 3:10

- “Floodgates” in Malachi 3:10 represents not just money, but blessings in your finances, your marriage, your future, your joy, your confidence.
- Tithe means returning 10% of every increase back to God—income, salary, bonuses, salary, unexpected income.
- The FIRST 10% is God’s. It’s holy, the first thing you do. It honors God.

EXODUS 23:19 “The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God. God will never be on second only first!”

1 CORINTHIANS 16:2 “On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.”

PROVERBS 3:9-10 “Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.”

HAVE SOMEONE READ JOSHUA 24:14-15

3. YOU CAN’T GIVE THE TITHE.

- “Bring it” means you can’t give it, because it’s not yours to give. It’s God’s for you to bring back.
- The First Portion is the redemptive portion—the portion that redeems the rest, that carries the blessing.
 - › It is better to live off of 90% with God’s blessing than 100% without it.
- It’s good to remember where you came from—before God saved you from yourself. You weren’t always a Christian, and we all have a lot of scars from living without God.
 - › It is a sacred covenant we make with the Lord: “I will keep You first In my home, with my income, with my children, in our church.”

4. THE TITHE CAN BE EATEN

HAVE SOMEONE READ 2 CORINTHIANS 9:10

- What happens if you eat all of your seed? Nothing gets planted, and the work of God stops going THROUGH you. The only thing that will

stop the vision God has given us is when we decide to eat the seed instead of plant it.

› This is good soil. Don't eat your seed.

- When we get to heaven, some will say, "I never met you but thanks for investing in me..." "I found Christ at NLC..." "You came to my city, you saved my marriage, my kids met Christ, you helped me understand the Word and taught me to worship. Thank you."

TAKE TURNS READING 1 CHRONICLES 29:9-14

- 1 Kings 17:8-14 mentions the story of the widow who gave her last meal to Elijah. If God didn't show up and provide for her need, both she and her child would have died.

› This is a supernatural miracle!

Q5. Did God send Elijah to the widow so God could provide for Elijah, OR did He send Elijah to her, so He could provide for her?

- God could only move because she gave the tithe first and didn't eat it!

Q6. What does a blessing look like to you?

Q7. Share experiences where you gave God the first part of something—whether tithing your resources or tithing your time (starting your day with Him first).

SPEND SOME TIME PRAYING FOR:

- Government leaders (national to local), pastors and leaders at New Life Church.
- Pray that God would continue to use NLC to spread His presence, love, truth and grace throughout Arkansas and Florida.
- Individual needs as expressed within the group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please refer to your local campus worship guide for relevant announcements.