



# Life Groups 2018

NLC Life Group Sermon Study

Week of March 25, 2018

Sermon: Family Series I  
Home Field Advantage

# Life Group Schedule

**15 MIN** Eat, Meet & Greet

**15 MIN** Ice Breaker Game: **Categories**. Divide your group into four teams or more, with about five members each. Encourage them to team with people they know the least. Instruct each team to find at least six things in common with every team member. Don't allow teams to use simple things like height, hair color, or clothing worn. Limiting the similarities to non-material things helps people learn more about each other and engage in active, more meaningful conversations that will promote inclusion and lasting connections. The game ends once every team has come up with six things they have in common; the winner is the team that achieves the objective first.

**NOTE:** Feel free to use as much or as little of the study as you like, in whatever way flows most naturally for your group.

## OPENING PRAYER

**45–60 MIN** “Home Field Advantage”

- One of Jesus' last words as He gave his life for us was, “Father, forgive them...”
- “A happy marriage is the union of two good forgivers.”—Ruth Graham
- Forgiveness gives us home field advantage. Covenant relationship is all about forgiveness and is the only way you will live according to your vows and biblical goals.
- You can't give something you haven't received—love, forgiveness, generosity.

**MATT 7:24-27** “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

- It takes effort to build a house correctly, and it takes even more effort to build a home correctly.

**Q1.** is the foundation of your family built on sand or on rock, and how do you know?

## HOW TO BUILD A HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE

**PROVERBS 14:26** “Reverence for the Lord gives a man deep strength; his children have a place of refuge and security.”

- Put Christ in the center of your personal life.
  - › Fight to be like Christ, to act like Christ.

**1 COR 16:13** “Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.”

### 1. Love Your Family with Unconditional Love.

- Your love for your spouse isn’t about what the other person can do for you. It’s sacrificial love...on your part!

**PHIL 2:4-5** “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

**EPH 5:25** “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”

- If God were fair, He would say, “Love your wife better than your dad loved your mom.” But He didn’t. The way He loved the church was to give his life up.
- Many times, we don’t need a better spouse. We need to be more like Christ.

**Q2.** When have you ever made a selfish decision and it brought joy, peace, or happiness?

**Q3.** The converse to that is this—when have you laid down your life for Christ and his word and sensed the strength and joy of God?

**JOHN 12: 24-25** “Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”

- We all like ourselves better when we are more like Him. All the emptiness and pain in your life comes from you trying to fill the emptiness and pain without Christ.

### 2. We must keep Jesus in the center.

- Not yourself, your kids, your hobbies or your career

**MATT 16:24-26** “Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Whoever

wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?"

**Q4.** How can we lay our lives down in America?

- When God was expanding Israel, he spoke to the parents. When He moves in a church, He's speaking to our homes!
  - › We have two priorities: To be a man or woman of God for our spouse, and to be a man or woman of God for our children.
  - › Singles: You can work this out with roommates, with your parents, your friends, your professors.
- The Word teaches us to build an honor culture.

**Q5.** Where in your relationships do you lack showing honor?

3. Stay steady in building on the Rock.

- Joshua was one of the greatest Generals who ever lived—a great fighter and a great father.

**JOSHUA 24:14-15** "Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

- Stay steady with God—moving through life carefully, gently, steadily.
- Stay steady with your church, faithful in a life group.

**PRAY TOGETHER THROUGH ANY NEED THAT HAS SURFACED.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**