



LIFE GROUPS 2019

NLC Life Group Study

Week of February 3, 2019
REAL CHANGE | Tree of Life

Life Group Schedule

15 MIN Eat, Meet & Greet

15 MIN Ice Breaker: **The Awards Ceremony.** Instructions: Give each person an opportunity to introduce themselves, stating their name, and if they were to be given an award, what would it be? For example, “most Oreos eaten in one sitting,” “most likely to burp the alphabet in a public place.” If time, let them share any story they may have that supports their award choice.

TRANSITION: As you’re gathering, spend a few minutes in worship & prayer.

OPENING PRAYER

45–60 MIN | REAL CHANGE | TREE OF LIFE

GALATIANS 5:1

GOD WANTS YOU FREE FROM FIVE MAJOR AREAS OF YOUR LIFE.

- From Guilt and Shame
- From Bruises and Bitterness
- From the Expectations of others (1 Thess. 2:4)
- From Controlling Desires (1 Cor. 6:12)
- From the Fear of Death (Heb 2:14-15; 1 Cor. 15:54-55)

Q1. Of these five areas, which one(s) do you struggle with the most?

HOW DO I WALK IN FREEDOM IN THESE AREAS?

SEE GENESIS 3

- One tree focuses on what you do...
- The other tree focuses on what Jesus has done!

JOHN 5:39-40

- One focuses on getting God’s approval
- The other focuses on receive God’s love

ROMANS 5:8

- One focuses on external duty
- The other focuses on internal desire

1 JOHN 5:3, 12

HOW DO I CREATE THAT INTERNAL DESIRE?

- **FALL IN LOVE WITH JESUS!**

JOHN 14:15

- Q2. Do you ever find yourself giving what seems like valid reasons, or even just excuses, for why things haven't changed in your life? If so, why do you think that is?
 - Q3. Is it hard to admit when you're wrong about something? Is there something you can admit today that you have been wrong about in the past? Maybe even a mistake you made this past week?
 - Q4. Which tree do you think you generally live in and why?
 - Q5. How does this teaching change the way you see God and the way you feel or believe that God sees you?
 - Q6. Discuss the difference between religion and relationship. Give examples.
 - Q7. What choices have you made that may have distanced you from God? (Encourage them that their choice to join this small group was a good choice with good results to follow!)
- Encourage your members to be aware of long-standing thoughts or beliefs about themselves or God and to check whether these beliefs line up with what the Word of God says.
 - Invite them to be conscious of their responses and thoughts to different situations this next week and mentally evaluate whether it is a Tree of Life or Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil response, particularly as it relates to sin in their lives. They will know which tree they are living in by their responses to sin. Let willing participants share personal experiences next week.
 - **NOTE TO LEADERS:** If the content in the Real Change sermon series has peaked yours and your life group's interest in digging deeper into this content, prayerfully consider continuing this semester in the Real Change Life Group Study, available at any New Life Church campus.

PRAY OVER NEEDS, ANNOUNCEMENTS