



LIFE GROUPS 2019

NLC Life Group Study

Week of February 3, 2019
REAL CHANGE | Choose 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 | CHOOSE LIFE

HOW TO BE A LIFE-GIVING CHRISTIAN, NOT LIFE-TAKING

GALATIANS 5:1

- There were two Trees in the Garden
 - › Tree of Life (TOL)—Christ-like mindset, and
 - › Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (TKGE)—A religious mindset
- Genesis 2:17 says “...you will die,” not “I will kill you.”

GALATIANS 5:22-23

- A Spirit-led life leads to the demonstration of these fruits, not grumpiness, meanness, not growing, judgmental, unattractive.

GENESIS 2:9, 15-17, GENESIS 3:1-5

- You will lose your innocence and change from life (relationship-based) to death (knowledge-based)

GENESIS 3:6-12

- We all choose every day whether we’re gonna live in the TOL or the TKGE, like a squirrel jumping back and forth from tree to tree
- TKGE: If you do this, you’re not a Christian; if you don’t do that, you’re not a Christian. Works-based. Do’s and don’ts.
- Originally, Adam and Eve had a friend: GOD!
- Even today, a life-giving Christian gets life from Christ and gives life from Christ. They make us want more of God.

PSALM 118:17

- TKGE sounds like this: “You don’t pray like me, do you?” Judgmental; condescending.
- TOL: sounds like this: “How can I help you pray more?” Challenging

and encouraging.

- Some of you live in the knowledge of good and evil
 - › Some are here at church because it is good to go to church and evil if you don't
 - › Some pray in the morning because its good...evil if not
 - › Some worship the Lord earlier because it is good to worship.... evil to not worship
- Some of you are in tree of life
 - › You worship to get more life in his spirit.
 - › You read to word....to get more life from him
 - › You go to church to get life
 - › You avoid sin because you don't want to destroy the life in Christ
- Note: we are not logging in hours with God because it is right. We are building a relationship with him.

LIVE FOR CHRIST...

1. ...AND HIS INNOCENCE.

GENESIS 3:5-6

- God didn't hide; Adam and Eve did. God pursued them.
- Stay innocent—serve, give, love, pray, stay humble
- An innocent person is not naïve; they just aren't calloused.

MATTHEW 18:3-4

2. AND DON'T HIDE AWAY FROM HIM.

REVIEW GEN. 3:7; MATTHEW 10:26; 1 COR. 4:5

- There is no such thing as a secret (Potiphar's wife)
- Adam and Eve didn't become more like God; they became more like the Serpent.
- Deut 4:9 vs. Matt. 26:50
- Jehosaphat remembered the covenant; Judas forgot
 - › We need God as our friend—
 - › Not just faith, but the Giver of faith,
 - › Not just healing, but the Healer
 - › Not just deliverance, but the Deliverer
 - › Not just power, but the Almighty

3. ...AND DON'T CAST BLAME.

- Gen. 3:8-12; Luke 5:32
- Don't transfer blame to someone else; instead transfer it back to the Lord, the cross.

- Q1.** 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?
- Q2.** 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?
- Q3.** Which tree do you think you generally live in and why?
- Q4.** How does this teaching change the way you see God and the way you feel that God sees you?
- Q5.** Discuss the difference between religion and relationship. Give examples.
- Q6.** 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