



LIFE GROUPS 2020

NLC LIFE GROUP STUDY | PEOPLE IN OUR WORK

Week of JANUARY 19, 2020

Life Group Schedule

30 MIN Eat, Meet & Greet

15 MIN Ice Breaker Game: **Sit Down If.** Instructions: Get everyone to stand up, then read through the following list, The last person standing is the winner! Sit down if...you have eaten chocolate today... you are wearing purple...you were born in September... you have blue eyes...you are the youngest child...you have broken a bone...you have gone two weeks without a shower...you can speak more than two languages.

TRANSITION: As you're gathering, spend some time in **WORSHIP & PRAYER.**

45 MIN | PEOPLE IN OUR WORK

- God wants to use you, not just to make money, but also to make a difference.
SEE EPHESIANS 2:8-9
- We are saved by faith, not BY works but UNTO works. The word "workmanship" is from the Greek word *poema*. Other translations use the word "masterpiece" or "handiwork."
 - › It is where we get our English "poem." A Poet expresses his or her self through poetry. **CHECK IT OUT:** We are God's expression! How is God expressing Himself? Through you and through me.
- "God does not need our works, but our neighbor does." *Gustaf Wingren*
- "In God's sight it is actually faith that makes a person holy, it alone serves God, while our works serve people." *Martin Luther in Large Catechism*

MOST PEOPLE DON'T INFLUENCE OTHERS:

- Because they aren't a professional.
SEE EPHESIANS 4:11-12
 - › The pastor's job is to equip YOU. The priesthood of all believers is a call to ministry. Some are called to be pastors; all are called to ministry.
- Because they don't have a platform.
 - › You don't have to have a stage, a huge network of friends, a certain number of followers on Instagram. Whatever you do, wherever you go, God wants you there to influence people.

SEE 2 TIMOTHY 4:5

- Because they aren't prepared.
- We feel awkward, not smart enough, not good enough.

SEE MATTHEW 4:18-20

- The disciples left their nets immediately and started doing ministry, learning along the way.

Q1. What has God given you, what gifts has God given you, and where has God placed you to influence others?

Q2. What, if anything, makes you think you're not prepared enough?

THREE WAYS WE CAN LET GOD WORK IN OUR WORK:

1. Be an Irresistible Witness.

SEE MATTHEW 5:13-16; ACTS 1:8; 1 THESSALONIANS 4:11-12

- Mt 5:13: Salt makes people thirsty.
- Acts 1:8: a witness shares their account. Your greatest ministry is the life you live.
- What do people need to see from believers in the workplace?
 - › Integrity, hard workers, honorable employees, respectable bosses
- People are watching how you talk about others, how you respond to criticism, how what you do behind the scenes, when you are different and set apart, how you respond to perverted joke.
 - › Our actions speak louder than our words.

2. Be an Intentional Friend.

2 CORINTHIANS 2:14-16; COLOSSIANS 4:5-6; 1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-8

- Earn the right to be heard. Earn their trust. Meanwhile, SERVE.
- Practical ways to be an intentional friend:
 - › Add value, find common ground, don't judge, speak life, don't be super spiritual, don't be pushy, don't be a know-it-all, don't debate, be nice.
 - › People may despise you because of Jesus, but don't let people despise Jesus because of you.

3. Be an Inclusive Leader.

- Inclusive language in Matthew 5:13-15: ...EARTH...WORLD, EVERYONE...ALL... EVERYONE.

SEE MARK 2:17; LUKE 14:23-24

- Jesus befriended people who were not like him: annoying, outcast, sinners.
- Our faith is personal, but it is not private! Bring your friends to church, to your house, to coffee, to your small group.
- You are at your job for a REASON, for a SEASON, for a SOUL.

Q3. If this season that you're living in right now is the only one that matters for eternity, who has the Lord called you to influence? What are their names? Tell your life group, so that as a group, you can start praying for them.

Q4. What is *your* next step to encourage each person you just named to take *their* next step?

TAKE PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAY OVER NEEDS