

LIFE GROUPS 2020

A GOOD CHURCH IS LIKE A GOOD FATHER

Week of June 21, 2020

Life Group Schedule

- PREP** Review the weekend service online. Read through each Scripture reference prayerfully. Invite the Holy Spirit to show you any correction you need to make around this week's topic. Be willing to be open, humble, and honest with your group about what He is showing you.
- 10 MIN** Log In, chat, check on everybody! Remember, be a facilitator of conversation, not a preacher! Talk little, listen more, and have fun! Keep in mind we do this for community and for each of us to grow closer in our relationships with God.
- 15 MIN** ICE BREAKER: Several ice breaker game suggestions can be located at [BIT.LY/NLCLIFEGROUP_ICEBREAKERS](https://bit.ly/NLCLIFEGROUP_ICEBREAKERS). Take your pick, and enjoy the game together!

TRANSITION: SPEND SOME TIME IN WORSHIP & PRAYER

30-45 MIN | A GOOD CHURCH IS LIKE A GOOD FATHER

- We all know what divides us. What can bring us together. Divided hearts cannot give undivided attention to God.
MATT 12:25 "Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, 'Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.'"

- Divided hearts cannot and will not give undivided attention to God
- Satan is our real enemy!
- Satan can't drive out Satan. We can do it in unity with God.

JOHN 13:35

- Pastor Rick talked about the challenges of social media and the news. It is hard to have a heart like Christ when we are watching the news.
- Q1.** Do you watch the news? If yes, what do you watch and how does it make you feel? Do you ever think there is a better use of your time?

- Pastor Rick said let's talk about how a good church is like a good father
- There's only been one perfect Father in history. It's God the Father. – He's been perfect.
- Some of us grew up with amazing dads, some did not.

ROM 3:23

Q2. Describe your father: How was he when you were growing up? If he is still alive, what is he like today?

FIVE WAYS A CHURCH SHOULD BE LIKE A GOOD FATHER

1. WE MUST PROTECT.

- Be proactive in our protection
- The Lord is looking out for your well being
- It is important to know if you have a “check” in your spirit or are trying to get your point across.

Q3. Can you share a time when someone was trying to protect you, or someone else, and it was getting on your/their nerves? (Or as Pastor Rick shared they were being a butt.) What can we learn about ourselves from that?

2. THEY ARE PROVIDERS.

1 TIMOTHY 5:8

- A good church provides help to the hurting with giving, with friendship, with counsel, with insight
 - › A good church is not stingy! And neither are the members.
 - › During tough times we look around first to see the needs.

Q4. If New Life Church shut down today would anyone notice? Why or why not?

3. THEY ARE PROMOTERS.

MATT 3:17

- God is promoting Jesus. Do you see that in his heart?
- That is the church:
 - › We need to be there for people hurting
 - › We need to pick them up
 - › We need to not quit until they are healthy again

LUKE 17:21

Q5. Who do you need to run to, put your arms around and promote?

4. THEY ARE PRIESTS.

GEN 8:19-20

- Before Noah built a home – he built an altar. Because he was a priest.
- The most important thing for kids --- even more important than shelter over their heads ---- is a relationship with God.

1 PETER 5:7

5. THEY ARE PROPHETS.

GEN 35:16-18

- When Rachel delivered the child she told the midwife – his name is Ben-Oni— which means “Son of my sorrows.”
 - › She was taking the pain/hurt of her life and giving it to her son
- Some of you feel like a son/daughter of sorrow
 - › Jacob said no, and renamed him Benjamin “Son of my strength”
- Point: people who are in seasons of pain. They need someone to call things that are not as though they are.
 - › Some of you were born in a painful place
 - › Some of you live in a painful place now
 - › Some of you feel like you are in sorrow
- But the church says....no...we need you around here:
 - › You are going to make this church stronger
 - › We need you to see that we need you

Q6. During this difficult season we need to be the church. Look at all five of the ways a church should be like a good father. (Protect, Provide, Promote, Priest, and Prophet) Pick one of the five that you think you are doing well. Share with the group and explain why. Next, pick one of the five that you need to work on. Share one thing you can do to improve in that area.

TAKE PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAY OVER NEEDS

CONFIRM OR SCHEDULE YOUR NEXT MEETING, WHETHER LIVE OR VIRTUAL

Leaders: Please share your email address and cell numbers. Be available!

- For more ideas, check out [VIRTUAL LIFE GROUP PLAN](#).
- As Life Group leaders—the hands, feet and voice of Jesus—remember “CPR”:
 - › C – Check-In and Care for People at least weekly
 - › P – Pray with and for them often
 - › R – Remember Scripture. God’s Word is powerful!
- Group Participation Guideline Reminders:
 - › Do not share anything that will embarrass anyone, including your spouse.
 - › If called on you may pass on any questions you do not want to answer.

- › Allow time for everyone to share; do not dominate the conversation.
- › What is said in the group stays in the group. Use common sense and know when something shared is personal and should remain confidential.

For Daily Prayer: The following linked resources can help strengthen our prayer lives

- [Foundations, Session 4: “WHAT IS PRAYER?”](#)
- [THE LORD’S PRAYER PATTERN](#)
- [THE PRAYER OF JABEZ PRAYER PATTERN](#)
- [THE TRINITY PRAYER PATTERN](#)

