

life groups

NLC Life Group Through the Bible Study

Week of September 17, 2017

Sermon: Real Love in an Angry World
—Covenant Relationships



NEW LIFE
CHURCH

Life Group Schedule

15 MIN Eat, Meet & Greet

15 MIN Ice Breaker Game: **Word Link**. Ask the group to sit in a circle. The first person starts with any word they choose (Ex: “red”). The next person repeats the first word and adds another word which links to the first (“red tomato”). The next person repeats the previous words and adds another word link (“red tomato soup”), and so on. To keep this moving, only allow five seconds for each word link.

NOTE: It is less important to get through all of the study material as it is to engage in meaningful conversations, strengthen each other in relationships, and pray for each other’s needs.

CWY/GLR ONLY: There will be no study notes provided for this weekend’s message. Please use your personal notes from the weekend experience to lead the discussion in your life group or city group.

OPENING PRAYER

45–60 MIN *Real Love in an Angry World*—**Covenant Relationships**

- It is easy to see division and offense in our culture.

Q1. What are some offenses that can be seen in our culture today?

- Jesus didn’t say, “Go into all the world and address the issues.” He said, “Go into all the world and make disciples.” Behind every issue is a person that Jesus came to live and die for.

TAKE TURNS READING JOHN 13:34-35 (NLT) “So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

Q2. What does it look like to love each other like Jesus loved us? How does that differ from how the world says we can “love” each other?

Q3. As you think about things you’re facing in life *right now*, what is the difficulty level of loving those around you the way Jesus is asking us to? (Be prepared to pray for expressed needs).

HAVE SOMEONE READ JOHN 17:20-23 (NLT)

Q4. According to this scripture, how will the world know God loves them?

- The only way the world will know God loves them is through our unity. God has given us all the understanding we need to carry out unity in the way He has unity with His people all throughout scripture. The type of unity we are called as Christians to have with one another is called “covenant.”
 - › “Covenant” means an agreement, and it is the only type of relationship God has with His people. Let’s learn from a few times God showcased His covenant with his people:
 - › God’s covenant with Noah (Genesis 6). He promised he would never flood the entire earth again. A rainbow exists as a reminder of that covenant.
 - › God’s covenant with Abram. God promised Abram many, many descendants. He renamed him to “Abraham” which means “Friend of God” so any descendant after that would be associated with this covenant—proving the covenant to be true.
 - › God’s covenant with Moses. When God rescued Moses’ people from slavery he gave them a new covenant of righteousness if they obeyed ten rules. We know this as The Ten Commandments, written in stone. God made it clear that this was temporary and that He would bring a new covenant.
 - › God’s new covenant with all mankind in Jesus.

READ LUKE 22:20 TOGETHER.

- › This was a promise to have a brand new relationship with God, with full access to Him. This places us all on the same playing field within the covenant, because of the sacrifice Jesus made. He set the standard for how grace is given out from Him to us all on the same level.

KEY COMPONENTS OF COVENANT RELATIONSHIP TO LEARN FROM JESUS:

1. Covenant Relationships Commit To One Other
 - Marriage is a great example of covenant relationship—a promise to live only for your spouse’s good, instead of based on how you feel, until you die.
 - Most relationships—whether marriage, friendship, or business partnerships—are too often based on feelings, and NOT based on existing in the relationship for the other person’s good.
- Q5.** Compare what a business partner relationship would look like in covenant, versus one outside of covenant?

READ JOHN 15:12-13 (NLT) “This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

- In each covenant in Scripture, something died. In the Old

Testament, the covenant required the sacrifice of an animal. In the New Testament, Jesus offered Himself as that sacrifice.

- › In our relationships we sacrifice our own interests and agenda. We live for the good of the other person.

Q6. Think about the tension in your home or workplace. How does this reality affect your daily interactions?

2. Covenant Relationships Connect To One Other

HAVE SOMEONE READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:26-27 (NLT) “If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it.”

- When someone is having a hard time, it might be easier to cut ourselves off from them as they suffer *over there*, away from us.
 - › This is not how a physical human body works. When the body is wounded, the white blood cells rush to the wound to heal it—and not just the cells that *feel like* assisting the wound! The cells work together to bring healing, because that’s what a body does.
 - › If there is pain in the body of Christ, and we choose not to support it for healing, we are *not* functioning as the Body of Christ was designed to function. We are creating and becoming a cutoff limb that will not survive.
- God reminds us of this Scripture so that we may recalibrate our priorities in order to help the hurting.

Q7. Ask the Lord to bring to your mind someone who is hurting. What is one way you can demonstrate covenant relationship to someone in their need right now?

3. Covenant Relationships Cover One Other

- This means to have someone’s back instead of trying to throw dirt on them. It means building up someone’s name, rather than exposing their weaknesses.
- In Genesis 9, Noah got drunk and naked. One of his sons, Ham, exposed him and highlighted his weakness. Ham went to his brothers Shem and Japeth, told them about it, and pointed it out. But Shem & Japeth took a garment, walked backwards into the tent so they wouldn’t see him naked, and covered him.
 - › To clarify, this is about working toward the goal of innocence in the ways we treat and respond to others. This is not saying that we avoid confronting sin or grant permission to break the law.

Q8. Can you think of a time of your own shortcoming or failure when someone honored you and covered you anyway? How did it affect

your view of that person, God, or yourself?

Q9. Can you think of someone it is difficult to show honor to?

- It is easy to withhold covering someone if they have hurt you in some way—whether accidentally or on purpose.
- Take time in one-on-one prayer to choose forgiveness toward others for not meeting your expectations, and allow God to heal any hurt in you because of that.

PRAY OVER NEEDS. BREAK UP INTO TEAMS OF TWO FOR FORGIVENESS PRAYER.

ANNOUNCEMENTS