

Life of Christ

A study of the life and teachings of Jesus

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 5 | The Leper

Week of October 11, 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 | THE LEPER

MARK 1: 40-45

Q1. WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF GRACE AND MERCY

GRACE IS A GIFT WE DON'T DESERVE

MERCY IS NOT GETTING THE PUNISHMENT WE DESERVE (FORGIVENESS)

- See the mercy of Christ and be merciful - we need to take the ideas and convictions from Jesus' teaching and turn it into spiritual maturity inside of us.

Q2. ARE YOU EXTENDING MERCY AND LOVING YOUR ENEMIES? IF YES, TELL US HOW. IF NO, SHARE HOW YOU CAN GROW IN THIS AREA.

- To receive mercy, we need to be merciful - even when we despise someone's opinion or what they post on social media.
- Christ knows we need to learn this from his teaching, that's why the story is told several times in the Gospels.

THREE THINGS ABOUT LEPROSY:

1. It Killed the Soul First

Q3. HOW IS LEPROSY IN THE DAYS OF JESUS RELATED TO THE SIN OF OUR LIVES TODAY?

IT TAKES AWAY OUR COUNTENANCE, OUR SOUL, THE WAY WE THINK, THE WAY WE LIVE AROUND OUR EMOTIONS.

LEV 13:46

- labeled "unclean"

LEPROSY WAS A SIGN OF MORAL FAILURE. IMAGINE EVERYONE THINKING YOU HAD FAILED!

Q4. HAVE YOU EVER HAD ANYTHING HAPPEN TO YOU THAT YOU KNEW WAS BAD FOR YOU PHYSICALLY, BUT YOU COULD TELL THAT IT WAS GOING TO CHANGE YOUR SOUL? (MAYBE YOU HAD AN EXPERIENCE WHERE YOUR LIFE FLASHED BEFORE YOU.)

SIN LIKE LEPROSY CAN AFFECT YOUR RELATIONSHIPS AND HOW YOU COMMUNICATE WITH OTHERS.

2. Leprosy Erodes the Body

Q5. DO YOU NEED TO APPROACH THE LORD AND ASK FOR HIM TO TOUCH YOU AGAIN? EXPLAIN.

THIS IS A SERIOUS SEASON WE ARE LIVING IN; WE ARE LIVING WITHOUT THE MERCY AND HAVE FORGOTTEN THE GRACE, AND WHAT SIN TRIES TO DO TO US.

LEV 13:46

MARK 1:40-42

3. Leprosy caused Spiritual Separation

Q6. HAS THERE BEEN A TIME WHEN YOU FELT SPIRITUALLY SEPARATED FROM GOD OR THE CHURCH?

SIN CAUSES SPIRITUAL SEPARATION

- When you give your heart to the Lord, there is so much mercy that is handed to you that when the Father looks at you, he sees his Son! Jesus traded places with us!
- Nothing can compete with that mercy

Q7. Is there someone you hurt or created pain in their life? Is there a way for you to resolve it?

THINK OF SOMEONE YOU MAY BE AVOIDING, SEPARATED FROM

- Ask God to give you mercy and the opportunity to repent and ask for forgiveness.
- Sometimes the mistakes we make, we just can not pay the price for them. You can not just take care of your own sin. God needs to be in on the healing.

Q8. Why should we worship in the pain verses only worshipping when we feel His blessing?

THE BEST WORSHIP YOU WILL EVER HAVE IN YOUR LIFE IS WHEN YOU WORSHIP IN THE PAIN.

- Because He knows exactly what we want, but we need to tell him. "Lord, if you are willing..." MARK 1:40

Q9. Have you been given compassion and shown mercy that you can tell others about? A time when you needed grace and mercy and God gave it to you? Share your story.

Q10. Do you have sin you need to cry out? Do you need the Lord's mercy toward that sin because you have been running from Him? Do you recognize that His compassion is trying to reach you this day? Ask God to help you by repenting of your current sin.

WE ARE ALL LIKE A LEPER IN TERMS OF OUR SIN AND THE DEGRADATION OF OUR SIN AND THE WAY WE LIVE; UNCLEAN, WITHOUT GOD. WE HAVE NO CHANCE WITHOUT HIS MERCY.

- Please don't be one who thinks He can't reach you. When you think that way, it's like you are saying the cross was not enough.
- Jesus KNOWS we need mercy

HEB 13: 5

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](#)