

# Life of Christ

A study of the life and teachings of Jesus

## LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 12 | The Depth of Divine Mercy (Days 73-79)

SERMON FOCUS: How to Finish Strong in 2020



## Life Group Schedule

- PREP** Review the weekend service online. Read each Scripture prayerfully. Invite the Holy Spirit to show you any correction you need to make around the topic. Be willing to be open, humble, and honest with your group about what He shows 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 | HOW TO FINISH STRONG IN 2020

#### MATTHEW 25:14-30

- Q1.** What talents have you been given and how are you using them for God's kingdom?
- One of the servants got one talent but buried it. When he was confronted by the Lord, he just made excuses, excuses—much like those of us who have gotten off track in 2020.
  - Jesus gets furious by waste: laziness, doing nothing.
- Q2.** Can you share a miracle you experienced in your life?

#### JOHN 2:1-10

- He visibly loves tenacity, persistence, and faith.
- Jesus does a miracle to the one going for it.

- Q3.** Do you believe that Jesus knows what you need? Explain. Do you know what Jesus wants you to do?
- Mary said “Do whatever He tells you.” She knew who to ask, and who NOT to ask.
  - She knows Jesus very well, so she knows that HE knows what they need even before *they* knew.

- Q4.** Do you do what you know is right to do? Do you do what Jesus wants you to? Share the do’s and don’t, both practically and spiritually.

**JAMES 4:13-17**

- Ask Jesus, “What do you want me to do?” and obey when you sense His prompting! It’s that simple.
    - > Physically: eating better, exercising
    - > Spiritually: reading the Word, raising kids in church
  - Following Jesus is not a game of luck.
- Q5.** What is faith? When you look back at this year, will you see faith? Why or why not?

**HEBREWS 11:1**

- Many have gotten off track, away from their deep conviction.
- Many didn’t know what to do or whom to ask.
- Faith is not “informing God” it’s “inviting God in.”
- Walk in difficulty so when it’s better, you will not be discouraged by your faith in the trial.

**SHAME IS DEFEATED WHEN WE DO THESE TWO THINGS**

1. After We Get Honest with God.

- Q6.** What is shame and where does it show up in people’s lives? How can shame keep others away from Jesus?

**2 CORINTHIANS 8:21**

- Mary knew she was a flawed person when God approached her as a virgin to give birth, but she accepted the grace given her.
  - Shame doesn’t obey; shame hides.
  - The wedding miracle was not to expose shame but to cover it.
- Q7.** Nathan was used by God to speak truth into David. Who is God using to speak into your life? If you do not have someone, then what step can you take to find that person?
- Nathan heard from God then approached David, not to shame him—he was already in shame—but to cause David to get honest with God.
  - In Psalm 51 David repented. Then Psalm 32:1-5 shares his blessing in the forgiveness he received from God.

## 2. After You Settle and Know Who You Are in Christ.

- Q8.** What does shame sound like in our lives? Does it sometimes keep you from approaching God's throne of *grace* with confidence? (see Hebrews 4:16).
- Q9.** Can you share what shame is saying to you? How can you get rid of it?
- The Lord says I DID something bad. Shame says I AM bad and can't be restored.
  - The Lord says I FAILED. Shame says I AM A FAILURE and cannot succeed.
  - The Lord says you have gotten off track this year. Shame says you will ALWAYS be off track. Too late now.
  - God is not ashamed of us but takes shame off of us. (Just like He did for Rahab)
  - The Bible is the only book that when you read it, it reads you. (The Author sits with you while you read it).
- Q10.** How can you finish strong and faithful to end 2020?
- Stay close to God.
  - Keep your eyes off politics, issues, aggravations, the news, and the rigidity of social media.

### **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](#)