



Dear LifeGroup Leader,

This week is all about interdependent service. We were made to come alive when we contribute together toward a larger vision of God's Kingdom.

LifeGroups is ideally the perfect way for that to happen. You like each other, you know each other, you're invested in each other's lives. It makes so much sense that these would also be people you find ways to serve with, whether it's in each other's lives, or to bless the larger neighborhood and world.

I'd like you to leave this week's meeting with some step toward serving together. Put something on the calendar, make a plan, no matter how small. Sometimes serving can mean using the time you have together every week in a different way - like writing a card, or giving a gift to someone in need.

As you do, watch how it lights up a different energy in your group. What might it feel like to serve together? To bless others with the love you experience together in God?

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The Heart of Worship

The Interdependent Heart of Worship

Worship involves much more than singing songs or prayer. Worship, we're told by Paul, involves offering our bodies as "living sacrifices". Larger than any isolated deed, worship involves the intentional act of living a life with divine purpose. Bill Stewart's story invites us to ask 2 primary questions: (1) Where are you presenting your body as a living sacrifice, and (2) In what interdependent dreams are you currently fully engaged?

FOCAL POINT: The heart of worship is not a solitary effort, but rather draws us to dream together about how we might impact our world.



Getting Started

Catch up together about how your week has been, possibly also revisit last week's meeting.

- ▶ Where in your life now do you feel you're part of a team? What difference does that make for you?



Exploring Scripture

Read the following passage together.

Romans 12:1-8

- ▶ Where do you hear God's heart in this passage?
- ▶ What words or phrases stick out to you?



Reflection

Take time to reflect together about the passage.

- ▶ In this passage, Paul describes the act of worship as a communal/team event. How does this differ from the way you automatically think of your spiritual life?
- ▶ When was a time in your life when you were working as part of a team to accomplish God's purposes? What did that feel like?



Praxis

With the understanding that we gathered here are the body of Christ, let's allow the truth from today's scripture to impact us as a LifeGroup.

- ▶ Dave invited us this Sunday to consider becoming more involved with "interdependent dreams". This is when we come most alive - when we're engaged in something bigger than ourselves, helping to see God's Kingdom come in our world.
 - ▶ When you think about your life now, what missions or "dreams" do you feel God pulling you toward? Where do you desire to see more of God's justice, beauty, love, care, or reconciliation?
 - ▶ How might we come alongside each other in these pursuits? Even if it's a small step, what might we have to offer?



Moving Outward

Challenge each other to live out God's truth this week.

- ▶ Sometimes we might feel unclear about where God's Spirit might be moving us. Visit <https://montrosechurch.org/connect/> to get an idea of the ways we're working together as a community. As a LifeGroup you might even consider writing a card to a ministry leader, or playing with kids on the playground on Sundays, or arranging a visit to STARS to support the work we do with higher-risk kids in Pasadena. There is a perfect role for you individually, and as a LifeGroup. Get involved!

Romans 12:1-8

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.