



Dear LifeGroup Leader,

I want you to keep a date in mind: 8/26/18. It's a Sunday afternoon, and it will be vitally important for the life of our church.

We're planning a church-wide volunteer orientation. This will be a chance for NEW LifeGroup leaders (among other roles) to come and get equipped so they can start LifeGroups.

Here's what I'd like from you. Identify ONE person in your life who you think could lead a group. It might be because they're hospitable, it might be because they are a natural teacher, it might be because they make great cookies, it might be because they simply have a space that works for 8-10 people.

Then, I'd like you to invite them to this time. My goal is to generate 6-8 new, equipped leaders who feel clear about how simple and life-giving it is to create a LifeGroup, and that these 6-8 people would grow new LifeGroups over the next few months.

Can you help me with this?

-Connor



The Heart of Worship The Sincere 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. Ivan Penn's story on Sunday spoke of our calling to speak truth, to hate evil and cling to what is good. At times speaking truth to power can cause conflict, just as it did in Jesus' ministry, yet we are called to care for the neighborhood and culture around us.

FOCAL POINT: When we are centered in God's love, we are also called to protect and care for others by the way we speak truth.



Getting Started

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

- ▶ When was a recent time you had difficulty being honest about something that bothered you?



Exploring Scripture

Read the following passage together.

Luke 4:14-20

- ▶ 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.

- ▶ Jesus makes a bold proclamation of his purpose, announcing the truth of God. To whom would this have been good news? For whom would it have been difficult news? Who would it have threatened?
- ▶ Jesus was speaking corrective truth to a certain way things were. Sometimes God gives us a similar conviction. When have you felt this same kind of conviction from God about “the way things are”?



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.

- ▶ When we feel discomfort with “the way things are”, whether it triggers in us a sense of injustice, compassion, care, or stewardship, service is a healthy response. Often we think of worship as singing – an emotional praise of God. While praise is an essential component that orients us to God's purposes, Paul's vision of worship has more to do with actual acts. To continue last week's conversation on serving, let's allow ourselves to marinate on what God might be speaking to us.
- ▶ What obstacles are currently in your way that keep you from serving in the way you're sensing from God? How can we help each other with those obstacles?
- ▶ What ways might we partner together to serve?



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!

Luke 4:14-20

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”