

# LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

For the week of April 28, 2024

*This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing & leading your group in discussion.*

## LEADER NOTES

### MEETING NOTES

#### ⇒ LEADER TIP

**Your goal each night is to lead your group in such a way that you hear from everyone and use the Bible as your guide. Know that if you do this each week the people in your group will grow! Remember you don't need to cover all questions. Great conversation is far more important than covering all the questions.**

#### ⇒ PRAYER NOTE

Check out the Tips on Group Prayer at the end of this Leader's Guide. And NEVER make someone pray. Group prayer is similar to public speaking, which is the #1 fear people have. More than once we've had people tell us they quit Life Groups because a well-intentioned person required everyone to pray.

#### ⇒ ATTENDANCE

Submit your group's attendance online through the Planning Center Groups. If you are still having trouble with taking attendance online, please read this article:  
<https://pcogroups.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360016180273-take-attendance>.

Find all of our leader resources online: <https://www.springfieldfaithcenter.org/leader-resources>

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ⇒ ELEMENTARY EXTRAVAGANZA: WILD WILD WEST

**May 18th, 10 AM – 12 PM at SFC**

Get set for a wild ride at our Elementary Extravaganza! These quarterly events are designed just for our kindergarten to fifth-grade crew. Come join the fun as we head out west with your best buddies! We've got snacks, games, goodies, and a quick gospel message to spice things up. It's a morning full of energy, laughs, and adventure. Don't miss out!!

#### ⇒ DISCOVER SFC

**May 19th, 12:30m – 2 PM at SFC**

Are you new to SFC? Or just want to know more about us? Come join our Discover SFC class to learn about the heart of our church. Lunch and childcare will be provided.

***DISCUSSION REMINDER: Remember, every night you want to hear from everyone in your group. Think through how you're going to ask questions so this happens. Ask various individuals what they think, go around the circle, set time limits on answers so you have time to hear from everyone.***

## WEEKEND NOTES

### LIFE GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

For the week of April 28, 2024

#### QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

#### BE FRIENDLY

**#1** If you could only watch one TV show, for the rest of your life, what would it be and why? What do you think your choice says about you, as a person?

*Low Risk. Good to have everyone answer this one.*

*Leader Tip: Let people have fun with this question, but don't let people read too much into each other's answers. If someone chooses a show that includes questionable content, focus on the positive things they like about it—don't let the group shame them for liking Game of Thrones, etc.*

#### BE OPEN

**#2** John gives a series of encouragements, or affirmations, to his audience. Praise God that these affirmations are true of anyone who has faith in Jesus.

1. Their sins have been forgiven.
2. They know God.
3. They are strong.
4. The word of God lives in them.
5. They have overcome the evil one.

Which of John's encouragements spoke the most to you? Why?

How do these encouragements connect to the things that John has talked about previously, in the passages before this one?

*Medium Risk. Some may not be comfortable to share in a larger setting.*

*Leader Tip: This question is meant to be a refresher on the content of the message, but it also asks people to make some personal applications to what Pastor Brandon talked about. Encourage people to share, even if their answers seem to stray off topic a bit; there isn't really a "wrong" way to answer this one.*

**#3** John talks about the danger of loving the world. In fact, he emphatically and deliberately urges Christians: “*Do not love the world or the things in the world!*”

(1 John 2:15) In your words, what does John mean by loving the world?

How does not loving the world differ from appreciating the world that we live in?

*Medium Risk. Some may not be comfortable to share in a larger setting.*

*Leader Tip: The goal of these questions is to grapple with John’s understanding of “the world” in this passage. Remind people that this is more a statement about the nature of God’s Kingdom and the Enemy’s Kingdom, rather than a statement about God’s creation being somehow evil. God’s creation is very good, but Satan’s dominion over it is very bad.*

**#4** John warns Christians about the nature of the world in 1 John 2:16: “*For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.*” How is John’s warning about the nature of the world, in v. 16, reflected in the story of Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness? What parallels do you see?

**Matthew 4:1-11, NIV**

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup>“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>7</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup>“All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

<sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Share a time when you struggled with choosing between worldly desires and following God’s will. What helped you make the right decision, or what prevented you from doing so?

*Medium Risk. Some may not be comfortable to share in a larger setting.*

*Leader Tip: This is a good opportunity to go first, and begin the sharing time with a story of your own. Demonstrate a level of vulnerability so that the rest of the group is comfortable sharing about their own stories.*

**#5** What is the role of community and accountability in staying focused on loving the Lord rather than the world? How do we help each other with this?

*Medium Risk. Some may not be comfortable to share in a larger setting.*

*Leader Tip: Pay attention to the answers that people give for this. Remind the group that accountability is an opportunity to help people agree with what they have heard God ask them to do, not a chance for us to “fix” each other. The goal is always for the Holy Spirit to lead us, and then for us to help each other follow his leading in faithfulness.*

## BE VULNERABLE

#6 How has your journey with the Lord impacted your desires and priorities? Do you care about the same things you did when you first got saved?

*High Risk. A few people may want to answer this question.*

*Leader Tip: People may be hesitant to talk about their desires and priorities; these can be sensitive issues, and people may be worried about experiencing shame regarding their past. Remind the group that God isn't interested in pushing us away; He wants to transform us, and to help us grow.*

#7 What steps is God asking you to take, individually, to align your desires with his will and to resist the temptations of the world? How can your Life Group help you with that?

*High Risk. A few people may want to answer this question.*

*Leader Tip: This is a great question to let carry you into a time of prayer. Let the answers to this fuel some of your prayer requests for each other. You might even encourage people to make plans to follow up with each other, later this week, to check in about how these things are going. Plan to support each other.*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

(Commit to pray for at least 3 prayer requests from your Life Group)

✓

✓

✓

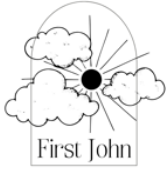
## TIPS ON GROUP PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of being in Life Group. Over the years we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.

**WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME** - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

**PRAY MORE THAN ONCE** - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

**WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE** - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one is required to pray out loud.



## TRANSFORMED BY GOD

1 John 2:12-17

### **Three Affirmations:**

1 John 2:12-14

1. Our **sins** have been **forgiven**.
2. We **know** the Father.
3. We have **overcome** the evil one.

### **Strong Exhortation:**

1 John 2:15-17

- Reject **worldliness!**

### **Priorities — the world vs. the LORD:**

- ✓ Do I choose the desires of the flesh or **self-control?**
- ✓ Do I choose the lust of the eyes or **contentment?**
- ✓ Do I choose the pride of life or **humility**