

# LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

For the week of April 19, 2026

*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

#### ⇒ MEN'S BREAKFAST

**April 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 – 11:00 AM**

This won't just be a meal—it's a chance to be in a room full of men who are pursuing something greater. Expect great food, strong coffee, and real connection. We're going to talk about where we're headed as a ministry—and how each of us has a role to play. You matter in this, and we'd love to see you there. Register online.

#### ⇒ DISCOVER SFC

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM at SFC**

New to SFC or just want to check us out? Join our Discover SFC class for a fun, laid-back way to learn what we're all about! We've got lunch and childcare covered. Sign up online or in the Connect Hub—we can't wait to meet you! Register online.

#### ⇒ NERF + NACHOS: CAMP FUNDRAISER

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM at SFC**

Enjoy a kid-free night while supporting our youth camp fundraiser! Drop off your kids for an evening full of food, games, and fun while you take a couple hours to celebrate Mother's Day. We'll keep them busy with nachos, Nerf battles, and plenty of laughs. We can't wait to hang out! This event is open for all kids (up to 5th grade). Register online.

***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 19, 2026

#### 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 got the chance to see one specific event, object, or location (historical or current), what would it be and why?

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

*Leader Tip: Be sure to lean on the why part of the question. Knowing that someone wants to see the Ark of the Covenant isn't as much fun as knowing **why** they want to see it.*

#### BE OPEN

#2 In John 9, the blind man is the only one who doesn't start the story with a "theological theory" about why he is suffering. Why do you think it's often so important to us to be able to explain **why** something bad has happened?

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

*Leader Tip: Try to keep this conversation focused on why that question is so common, and so important to us. There's a chance that your group could get sidetracked by someone with some current hurt, who is actually asking that question in the middle of the pain. This question isn't designed for them to dump their emotional baggage, but to step back from that and look at how we tend to process hurt and grief.*

*Asking, "Why me?" in the middle of life is normal, and I want people to talk about why it's normal. I **don't** want your group spending its time counseling a person who is actively asking, "Why me?"*

#3 The man's parents were more afraid of being "put out" of their social circle than they were excited about their son's miracle. Have you ever had an experience where following what you knew to be right felt socially risky? If you can, share that story with your Life Group.

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

*Leader Tip: Be careful with how people answer this question, and try to guide things away from this becoming a "humble brag" session. The point isn't for people to be able to flaunt the moments in their Christian journey when they were so sold out for Jesus that they got kicked out of something; the goal is to look at the sorts of pressures that can stop us from following Jesus.*

*Also, it's worth pointing out that the man in the story was rejected by the religious leaders, and was kicked out of the synagogue community. The social risk he took was in being rejected by his "church," not by the unbelieving world around him.*

#4 The prophet Isaiah spoke of moments like this, and how Israel was failing to uphold the design that God had for them:

**Isaiah 42:6-7, and then 18-20, NIV**

<sup>6</sup>“I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, <sup>7</sup>to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

<sup>18</sup>“Hear, you deaf; look, you blind, and see! <sup>19</sup>**Who is blind but my servant, and deaf like the messenger I send? Who is blind like the one in covenant with me, blind like the servant of the Lord?** <sup>20</sup>**You have seen many things, but you pay no attention; your ears are open, but you do not listen.”**

While clearly true of the Pharisees in this story, this sort of blindness isn't limited to them. What sorts of things cause blindness like theirs, and why is it so easy for us to fall victim to it?

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

*Leader Tip: Try not to let this become a time to bash on the Pharisees, either. Keep the question focused on the things that can blind us, and why those things are such common pitfalls. Pastor Brandon has talked about the danger of us becoming “accidental pharisees,” and refusing to look at our own limitations and shortcomings is a great way to shoot ourselves in the foot.*

#5 As Pastor Courtney said in the message, Jesus came to give sight:

**Luke 4:16-21, NIV**

<sup>16</sup>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, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

<sup>18</sup>“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, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”**

<sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

In your own life, where have you experienced one or more of the promises that Jesus describes here?

Which of these promises do you feel that you most need from him today?

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

*Leader Tip: Keep in mind that there will be people in your group who don't feel like they've ever experienced God doing any of the things in those verse for them. Protect them from feeling left out, or hopeless. The goal is to hear from people who have, and to be encouraged by those stories.*

*The second question is for everyone, and especially for the ones who feel like God has never done these things for them. Encourage them to keep hoping and asking for the freedom that Isaiah described.*

## BE VULNERABLE

#6 Part of the Pharisees' blindness came from their knowledge—they were so sure they knew how God **should** act that they missed how God **was** acting. Have you ever experienced this for yourself, or watched someone else get stuck in a space like it?

What was the result of that experience? How did you get through it?

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

*Leader Tip: This is another great chance to go first, and to demonstrate vulnerability for the group. Try to think of a story that you could answer first with.*

*Additionally, be cautious with people who are very, very quick to point out this sort of blindness in others. In moderation it's fine, but sometimes it can come from a place of trying to deflect from their own blindness. Be sure to ask the final question as a follow-up to everyone who answers. Asking, "How did you/they get through it?" forces people to discuss the good in the story, rather than leaving space to simply be critical of others.*

**#7** If you were to admit that there is one area of "blindness" in your life right now (a relationship, a habit, a fear, etc.), what is one practical step you can take this week to "wash in the pool"—to obey a simple command of Jesus even if you don't see the full outcome yet?

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

*Leader Tip: Most times, question 7 will be phrased in a way that asks for some sort of "growth goal." That's intentional, even though I know very few people will engage it seriously. It's far too easy for us to set incredibly vague goals for ourselves, and those can make it hard to see fruit in our lives. That's not to say that fruit doesn't grow, but that it's hard for us to recognize when it's there; vague goals lead to vague fruit (i.e. I think I'm being more kind than last week, but I don't really know how to measure that).*

*Don't be heavy handed about it, but encourage people to set goals for themselves that will be visible as they look back at them. Help them set practical steps, that can actually be reached within a week's time.*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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

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## 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.

## MIRACLES: SIGHT TO THE BLIND

John 9

### **Big Idea:**

Jesus gives *physical* and *spiritual* sight to the blind.

### **“As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth”:**

1. We are all *blind*.
2. *Jesus* gives sight.
3. We *decide* what to do with it.

### **Conclusion:**

⇒ “One thing I do know. I was *blind*, but now I *see!*”