

Better Together

Life Group Leaders Guide

Objective

This guide contains the information and questions you will need to lead a life group study during our current sermon series. Our aim is to spark Spirit-led, Bible-centered conversations that anyone can participate in regardless of how biblically literate they may or may not be. **The win** that we want you to experience is when your group members **connect** more closely with each other and with God so that they are encouraged to move forward in living out their faith.

Directions

The *Purpose* and *Move* sections are for the leader to read to the group to provide clarity. **Do not feel pressured to cover all the questions.** Decide which ones may work best for your group. You will see brief notes interspersed between groups of questions to help give the group context for their answers. The *Notes and Commentary* section (when included) is optional reading for the leader to get background information and better understanding of the passages before leading the discussion.

Series Overview

While Jesus does save us individually, he saves us into a people. It is only when we understand who we are together as the people of God, that we truly understand the access to God we have, the hope we have, and just how strong WE 3 are together. In Christ, WE are BETTER TOGETHER.

Better Together Series Schedule

| Week | Sermon Date | Topic of Life Group |
|------|-------------|---------------------|
| 1 | 9/16 | Better Experience |
| 2 | 9/23 | Better Hope |
| 3 | 9/30 | Better Life |

The Point Church Life Group Curriculum

Better Experience

Purpose of Study

The goal of this lesson is to help the people see that there are not supposed to be any lone rangers in Christianity. We are saved to be part of the family of Christ.

Flow of Study

Icebreaker: Share a fun fact about yourself that probably no one in the group knows about you. (Or you could have them share two lies and one truth about themselves and see if the group can guess which is the truth.)

Move #1: Since the sermon series and life groups are covering similar topics, it might be a good idea (both for content and time) to begin the discussion with some unpacking questions from this Sunday's sermon.

1. Did anything stand out to you from the message this weekend?
2. Is there anything from the message this weekend that you want to apply?

Move #2: Let's take a look at a passage that talks about how we as believers are being built together into a spiritual house on the foundation of Christ.

Read 1 Peter 2:4-10 (NIV)

4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— **5** you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”

7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

8 and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Leader Note: Be careful not to get hung up on verse 8 because it is not the focus of the lesson. There is a lot of disagreement about what “destined for” actually means, so people will likely have varied views on this and it will be easy to get sidetracked.

3. In verses 4-5 Peter calls Christ the “living Stone,” and then calls us “living stones” that make up a spiritual house. Why do you think Peter describes the people of God with the imagery of stones being used to build a house?
4. Imagine building a house out of stones that are alive and active instead of inanimate. What challenges would this present? What applications could we make to our experience of life within a church community? (For instance, “living stones” are always moving around, changing places, coming and going, leaving holes that have to be refilled, having to be redirected.)
5. What are some things that Peter says about the people of God in verses 9-10?
6. We live in an individualistic society, but the language used in this passage is not individualistic at all. What are some ways that this passage shows the collective aspect of being part of the church?

Move #3: Next we are going to look at the passage that serves as the blueprint for our life groups.

Read Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **43** Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. **44** All the believers were together and had everything in common. **45** They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. **46** Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, **47** praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

7. What are some things that the people in this passage did together?
8. Have you ever experienced a church community that looked like this in any way? What was that like?
9. This text describes the wonder and joy that the early Jerusalem church experienced as they met and worshipped together. Can you describe a time when you recall experiencing God in a special way in a group context?
10. What are some areas of your life that you tend to deal with on your own that it might be helpful for you to have others come alongside you? How can our Life Group help?
11. Growing closer to one another in Christian community helps us better experience God. How can we grow closer to each other as a Life Group?
12. The community in this passage impacted the world around them. What are some ways our group can impact the world around us by the way we interact with one another?

Next Steps: The following are things you could challenge your members to do in order to take what you studied in this curriculum farther.

- Spend time with someone from life group this week outside of life group.

Prayer: End your study with a time of praying with and for each other. Take requests, but be sure to pray also about what you've discussed today.

Notes and Commentary

The following are pieces of commentary, facts, and links based on the passages of this study in order. Use them to help supplement your group time or for your personal preparation.