

Living Beyond Myself

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

God's answer to the needs in our world is the local church. When we LIVE BEYOND OURSELVES, we will provide RELIEF to those in need, guide them towards steps of RESTORATION, and ultimately lead them to spiritual RENEWAL in Christ. In doing so we have the capacity to unleash the exponential POWER OF DOING GOOD. The question is will you settle at knowledge of the needs around us, or will you JUMP IN and partner in the mission of Jesus.

Living Beyond Myself Series Schedule

Week	Sermon Date	Topic of Sermon & Life Group
1	Nov. 18	The Power of Doing Good
2	Nov. 25	Just Jump In

The Point Church Life Group Curriculum

Living Beyond Myself - Just Jump In

The Big Idea

Meeting needs is a matter of obedience, not convenience.

Flow of Study

Icebreaker: Tell us about something you've learned to do that you can only learn by experience, and what that was like. (Some examples might be learning how to swim, kiss, play an instrument, dance, etc.).

Move #1: Let's begin by unpacking any thoughts that you took away from this weekend's sermon.

1. Did anything stand out to you from the message this weekend? Any insights or questions?
2. Did you feel convicted to act on something from the message?

Move #2: In our first text, Jesus provides a powerful incentive for serving others and a stern caution against ignoring the needs in our community.

Read Matthew 25:31-46 (NIV)

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

44 “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

45 “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

3. Re-read verses 35-36. Describe a time you helped someone in need. What was that experience like and what impact do you think it had?
4. Based on this passage, can we obey God without helping those in need? Why or why not?
5. We often see people in need and think about helping them or hope that they get help. Why do we often stop short of actually helping people?
6. What are some things that might help us overcome these barriers to acting on our intentions to help people?

Note: Jesus speaks of those who need help in very personal terms, saying that whatever we do for “the least of these” we do for him.

7. How would our actions be different if, when we looked upon the stranger in need, we saw Jesus?
8. Have you ever encountered Jesus through serving the poor or oppressed? Describe that.

Move #3: Our next text is from John’s first letter. Throughout his letter, he explains the nature of real love and what it practically means for a follower of Christ.

Read 1 John 3:16-18 (NIV)

16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

9. If someone asked you, how would you define love?
10. How does John define love? How does it challenge you?

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.

Next Steps:

- Just jump in and participate in the Big Serve week! (Sign up at pointchurch.com/bigserve)
- Memorize and reflect on 1 John 3:18 throughout this next week and look for ways to live it.