

The Family Tree

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

The Family Tree of Jesus is a long and bumpy road. Much like our own genealogy, His has bright spots and spots we would like to forget. Throughout December we are going to watch how God took that long, jagged road and implanted hope and grace, faith and love. And ultimately how he used those imperfect people to bring us Jesus Christ—the light of the world.

The Family Tree Series Schedule

Week	Sermon Date	Topic
1	12/1/19	Socials
2	12/8/19	Grace
3	12/15/19	Life Group Break
4	12/22/19	Life Group Break
5	12/29/19	Life Group Break

The Point Church Life Group Curriculum

Grace

The Big Idea

We need God's grace for our past, but also to endure the present.

Flow of Study

Icebreaker: What kind of gift-giver are you? Do you shop online or in-store? Practical or frivolous? Last second or planned out?

Move #1: Grace is an undeserved kindness we have been given and we are called to give to each other. Consider the message on grace from this Sunday:

1. What stood out to you from the message this weekend about Ruth and Naomi and the importance of grace in our lives?

Move #2: One way we can experience God's grace is through other people. Let's look at how God uses people like us to demonstrate His grace.

Read Acts 4:32-37 (NIV)

32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. 33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all 34 that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. 36 Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), 37 sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

2. How do we see God's grace displayed in this passage?

Note: Just like today, these early believers were diverse in many ways. There were men, women, boys and girls. There were educated and uneducated people, business owners and slaves.

3. What was it that unified the hearts and minds of such a diverse group?
4. What are some ways we can help to further unify our church through showing God's grace?
5. In verses 34-35, all the people's needs were met by one another. They had to acknowledge their needs and express them in order to receive help. What does this teach us about our own dependence on God and others?
6. Barnabas's sacrifice was more than an act of generosity, but a radical demonstration of grace. Where have you experienced or seen a radical act of generosity? How did it impact you?

Move #3: Not only does God show us grace through others who walk with us in life, but Jesus became like us and graciously invites us to Himself.

Read 2 Corinthians 7:5-7(NIV)

5 For when we came into Macedonia, we had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn—conflicts on the outside, fears within. 6 But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, 7 and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him. He told us about your longing for me, your deep sorrow, your ardent concern for me, so that my joy was greater than ever.

7. How was Paul experiencing God's grace through the people in his life?
8. Who in your life needs your love and support right now? What are some practical ways you can show your concern?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 (NIV)

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. 5 And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. 6 So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. 7 But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. 8 I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

9. Generosity and grace are tied closely together in these passages. Why do you think that is?
10. How might God's grace allow us to move from a place of severe trial to overflowing joy?
11. God made himself fully human in order to empathize with us (verse 9; compare Hebrews 2:17). How does the ability to empathize with another person lead us to acts of grace?
12. How does God's ultimate demonstration of grace on the cross motivate us to show undeserved kindness to people with whom we have difficulty empathizing?

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

1. Reflect on God's record of grace in your own life. Look to the future with confidence in His grace & provision.
2. Ask and discuss: How can we as a group be God's grace to each other and to someone outside the group during this season? (Find a specific need to meet as a 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