

# We > Me

## 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

We live in a very “me” centered world. What if we lived our lives with the belief that when we live out our lives in community it will have greater impact than if we just try to do life alone? Our new series WE>ME will help us see how doing life together is greater than doing life alone.

### We > Me Series Schedule

Week	Sermon Date	Topic
1	9/15/19	<a href="#">Group Socials</a>
2	9/22/19	Better Together
3	9/29/19	Qualified

# The Point Church Life Group Curriculum

## *Qualified*

### The Big Idea

The Holy Spirit empowers us to speak God's truths to each other.

### Flow of Study

**Icebreaker:** Describe a time when you were part of a team of people that helped you to accomplish or improve in something.

**Move #1:** Let's begin the discussion with some questions unpacking this Sunday's sermon.

1. What stood out most to you from the message this weekend about how we are qualified through our relationship with Jesus to speak truth to each other?
2. What are some things that were mentioned that we can apply in our own Life Group?

**Move #2:** Next, let's look at one of Peter's letters and talk about how to follow his example to remind one another of the things God has taught us through his word.

**Read 2 Peter 1:12-15 (NIV)**

12 So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. 13 I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, 14 because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15 And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

3. Why do you think Peter feels the need to keep refreshing their memories about these things if they already know them?
4. What are some truths that you need to be reminded about from time to time?

**Note:** Peter feels an urgency to prepare his people because he knows that his time is coming to an end. Our opportunities to influence people also have a limit. Life is short, and people move in and out of our lives.

5. How does realizing our time is short affect the urgency with which we share God's truths with each other?

**Move #3:** In the next reading, we will explore what Jesus said about those who love him and the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers.

**Read John 14:15-26 (NIV)**

15 “If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

22 Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”

23 Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

25 “All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

6. What are some things that stick out to you in this passage about the Holy Spirit?
7. Why do you think he is called “the Spirit of truth”?
8. Do you even feel qualified to speak God’s truth into other people’s lives? Why or why not?
9. What do you think the Holy Spirit’s role is, and how does he qualify us to teach one another God’s ways?
10. What are some needed cautions to be aware of when attempting to speak truth to each other?
11. Why is it important for us to test what we hear from others against the teaching of Scripture (verses 15, 21, 26)?

**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. Who is more qualified than you to share about how God has changed your life? Look for ways to do that this week.
2. Encourage group members to meditate on and memorize Acts 1:8 this week.
3. Look for opportunities to speak into other people’s lives and allow others to speak into yours.

**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.

### **On John 14:15-26:**

Jesus uses an unusual term in 14:16 for the Spirit. The niv “Counselor” translates the Greek *parakletos*, often transliterated “Paraclete.” This word is unique to John in the New Testament. Of the five Spirit promises in this discourse (14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7; 16:12–14), four of them include this title (14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7). A fifth (and final) use occurs in 1 John 2:1, where Jesus is called a *parakletos*.

Extensive scholarly debate as well as every commentary on John tries to probe the meaning of this word. It comes from a verbal root that describes someone “called alongside” and occurs in secular Greek literature for an advocate in a court of law, who comes “alongside” a person to speak in his or her defense and provide counsel....

Jesus now emphasizes the conserving and teaching roles of the Spirit. The concept of “remembering” occurs multiple times in this Gospel (2:17, 22; 12:16; 14:26; 15:20; 16:4, 21) and is linked to the “misunderstanding” of the disciples. During the earthly ministry of Jesus, understanding was difficult. But now, Jesus promises, the Spirit-Paraclete will recall the things he has done and said and fix them in the minds of his followers.

We can see this at work in John’s own Gospel. After Jesus cleansed the temple (2:13–23) John adds the editorial comment, “After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken” (2:22). It was the resurrection—and its gift of the Spirit—that provided the meaning of Jesus’ works. The inspiration of the Spirit, therefore, does not bring forward new revelations about Jesus, but simply gives correct applications and meanings for what he did in history. Just as Jesus’ primary work was revealing the Father (1:18), so now the work of the Spirit-Paraclete is revealing the “Jesus of history” to his followers....

The Spirit in 14:25–26 is a conserving, recalling power in the church. As Jesus faithfully spoke the words given to him by the Father, the Spirit faithfully recalls Jesus’ words, never deviating from the things he taught. New ideas, therefore, new spiritual “insights” must always be tested against the historic revelation we have in the Gospels (cf. 1 John 2:22–27). (Gary M. Burge, *NIV Application Commentation: John*)