



Life of a Jesus Follower Group Discussion Guide WEEK 2

Every Group time entails a few different moments. **Every Group begins with a WELCOME** sharing any church announcements, Group updates, clarifying the vision of the group and reminding everyone of the Group guidelines. **Then we move towards the GET TO KNOW YOU QUESTIONS:** These questions are easy, relational, fun and laid back. The intention is to help people refocus on their time with the Group. The next 3 moments in your Group entail Abide, Connect and Share Group Questions. **ABIDE GROUP QUESTIONS reflect the message and the devotional.** It focuses our heart on what it means for us to abide in Him. This section begins with 5-7 minutes reviewing the outline from the weekend and the points that were shared in case people missed the service. **Then CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS reflect on our relationships with one another** applying what we just learned. And finally **SHARE GROUP QUESTIONS reflect how we will share what we've learned with those around us.** Every Group time has time for **PRAYER** sharing what's on your heart. The Group closes with **FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS** hearing about any reminders and assignments for the next Group.

What's the vision of #HopeGroupsLV? #HopeGroupsLV CONNECT people to live the life of a Jesus Follower and create environments for people to belong, be known and be sent to live that life.

What is the Life of a Jesus Follower Group? This 7 week Group study is based on a series and devotional rooted and created here at Hope Church. This study will give you the foundation of what it means to be a Jesus Follower.

If I miss Sunday's sermon where can I find it? www.jesusfollower.com

Review the Group Guidelines

1. Confidentiality: Whatever we share in the group stays in the group.
2. "I" statements: Speak about yourself; don't share someone else's story.
3. Respect: Share your opinions and respect other people's opinions.
4. Time: Show up on time or let someone know if you are running late.
5. Participate: Be willing to participate in the group by sharing your thoughts on the topics.
6. Awareness: Allow other people to speak; don't dominate the time.
7. Avoid Fixing: Don't try to fix someone; allow people their process.
8. Sharing: Be as honest as you feel capable of being about the topic.
9. Gather: Come to service on Sunday to prepare
10. Fun: Enjoy the people in your group and have fun!

GET TO KNOW YOU GROUP QUESTIONS

The intention is to help people refocus on their time with the group

- 1) *Introduce yourself again and what you do for a living.*
- 2) *What's the best trip you have ever gone on and why did you like it?*

ABIDE GROUP QUESTIONS

These GROUP questions reflect the message and the devotional.

Review the Outline (5-7min). If you are a Connection Group the Review is done by the Host on Stage.

Pastor Vance talked about following Jesus always begins with an invitation.

- 3) *Share about the moment when you gave your life to Jesus.*

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS

These GROUP questions reflect on our relationships with one another applying what we just learned

Pastor Vance mentioned that Jesus Invited them to follow Him because He loved them. God invited these people into a relationship with Himself, because He desired (wanted) to have a relationship with them!

4) Share a moment when you have felt or experienced being loved by God?

Pastor Vance shared the two Goals of the Christian Life:

To Know God and The Daily Goal—To Spend Time with God.

5) If you had the opportunity to do the 42 day devotional, what day spoke to you and why?

6) What have you learned recently about God's character through spending time in His word?

Pastor Vance shared that BEING A JESUS FOLLOWER IS ALL ABOUT INTIMACY and THE PURPOSE is to be with Him!

7) Is the passion of your life to know Him? Is the practice of your life to spend time with Him daily? Are you focused on "doing" or "being"?

SHARE GROUP QUESTIONS

These GROUP questions reflect how we will share what we've learned with those around us. Then finally every Group time has a moment for

8) What do you believe the Lord is asking you to do next with what you have learned this past week through the devotional, sermon and/or group?

9) How can you SHARE in God's mission this season?

- Be a Care Community for a Foster Family and attend the Orientation on Feb 20th (Just for Leader)
- Attend the Pray Walk on Feb 29th at Hope 9-10am
- Have a BBQ and invite your neighbors on Feb 29th in the afternoon.
- Commit to 'adopting' a missionary and pray for them as well as reaching out to them.

10) Who would be open to hosting the Group for weeks 5,6 and 7 of the study?

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Continue reading your devotional.
- Connect via your GroupMe/TEXT with your Group for prayer requests.
- Next week determine what you will do as a Group to share in the mission.
- Take a group picture and post it. Use the hashtag #HopeGroupsLV and caption 'We are choosing to Live the Life of a Jesus Follower.
- Did you make sure your name was on the roster? If you are new did you sign it?

PRAYER REQUESTS

Name

Prayer Request

[illegible]



Sermon Outline Week 2

THE LIFE OF A JESUS FOLLOWER

Week 2—I'm in a Relationship with God

MARK 3:13-14

During the 1970's tensions were high in the U.S. as we were engaged in the Cold War with Russia and the threat of nuclear war was high. In response the U.S. invested billions of dollars in a *global positioning system* to allow us to better navigate our submarines. Precise navigation would enable United States submarines to get an accurate fix of their positions prior to launching their ballistic missiles. In 1983 President Ronald Reagan announced that the system would be made available for civilian use. And today you can simply type, "PIZZA" into your iPhone and be led turn by turn to any pizzeria in the world using GPS! (*Don't know about you but I think it's the best \$12 billion the U.S. gov't has ever spent!*) You will never arrive at your desired destination if you are going the wrong way! (*That's why Siri usually follows that statement with this, "at the next available opportunity please make an appropriate U-turn"*) The same thing is true spiritually...Christianity is like that...and I am afraid that many people have started out in the wrong direction! Last weekend we laid down a foundational reality to help us evaluate our lives and see if we are headed in the right direction

The Life of a Jesus follower is all about RELATIONSHIPS!

1. ABIDE—a Relationship with God
2. CONNECT—a Relationship with One Another
3. SHARE—a Relationship with the World

Where is the best place in the Bible for us to go to make sure we are headed in the right direction? How about the beginning—*when Jesus called His first disciples*—**READ TEXT...MARK 3:13-14**

➤ THREE TRUTHS ABOUT THE LIFE OF A JESUS FOLLOWER:

I. BEING A JESUS FOLLOWER BEGINS WITH AN INVITATION

➤ THREE THINGS WE MUST UNDERSTAND ABOUT THIS INVITATION:

A. Jesus Invited them to Follow Him

- The invitation to follow Jesus...
 - ✓ ...Is not an invitation to participate in a religion (*do's/don'ts*)
 - ✓ ...Is not an invitation to "get involved in church"
 - ✓ ...Is not an invitation to moral activity
 - ✓ ...Is not even simply an invitation to go to heaven when you die
 - ✓ ...It is an invitation to enjoy a relationship with the God who made you through the Person of Jesus Christ! (*Heaven is simply taking the relationship to another level—from a rel. by faith to a rel. by sight!*)

B. Jesus Invited them to follow Him because He loved them

- God invited these people into a relationship with Himself, because He desired (wanted) to have a relationship with them! "*This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*"—1 Timothy 2:3-4. God's purpose for every human being can only be enjoyed in a loving relationship w/Him through His Son Jesus Christ! God desires a relationship with you more than you want a relationship with Him...because He loves you!

- THE PROBLEM: *“But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.”—Isaiah 59:2.* The relationship with God that is the ultimate fulfillment of my life’s purpose, I cannot enjoy because of sin!
 - THE SOLUTION: *“For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.”—1 Timothy 2:5-6*
 - “mediator” one who reconciles separated parties
 1. There is a God who created me and desires a relationship with me
 2. I am separated from that God because of my sin
 3. God loved me so much He sent Jesus as a mediator to restore the relationship I lost because of sin
- C. His Invitation had to be Accepted. *“they came to Him”*—They had to respond to God’s invitation. God will not force you into the relationship—He simply invites you. Following Jesus is not an event that happens during your life—it is *the journey of your life!!!* If you miss this you miss everything! If you start off in the wrong direction, you will not end up where you want to be!

“Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'”—Matt. 7:22-23

II. BEING A JESUS FOLLOWER IS ALL ABOUT INTIMACY

- What was the purpose of following Him? To be with Him!
- What is the goal of the Christian life? Some say *to live for God or to obey God...* Jesus didn’t say “so that they could live for Him”—He said, “so that they would be with Him.”

“Following Jesus is NOT about doing, it is about being!”

Life-changing Principle: *“The primary call on my life is NOT to do something for Jesus...the primary call on my life is to be with Jesus.”* The goal IS the relationship!

- Two Goals of the Christian Life:
 - A. The Overall Goal—To Know God
 - “And this is eternal life, to know You...”
 - “know” —this word implies a personal relationship
 - B. The Daily Goal—To Spend Time with God
 - “be with”—this phrase indicates fellowship/devotion

III. BEING A JESUS FOLLOWER OVERFLOWS IN EVERY AREA OF MY LIFE

His mission for them was that their lives would make public His life—but that was only possible as the overflow of their “being with Him”! *“This is real Christianity—a spontaneous overflow of the life of Christ through us.”—Clyde Cranford*
“Everything Jesus desires to do through you, He will accomplish as the overflow of His relationship with you.”

Is the passion of your life to know Him?

Is the practice of your life to spend time with Him daily?

Are you focused on “doing” or “being”?



General Information about Life of a Jesus Follower

What does the study consist of over the next 7 weeks?

- 1) 7 weeks in a Group
- 2) 42 Day Devotional (optional but highly encouraged)
- 3) Discussion on the Sermons from Pastor Vance

*This book shares the vision of the Life of a Jesus Follower and is a great supplemental resource for your journey. Your group will not be about the book but rather supplemental to their journey.

Can people join your Group at any time? Yes, these are all open groups. The only issue will be space available in your home or at your table.

How does the devotional break up into the 7 weeks?

Week 1 Days 1-7	Week 3 Days 15-21	Week 5 Days 29-35
Week 2 Days 8-14	Week 4 Days 22-28	Week 6 Days 36-42

What are the titles of each week?

Week 1 – IT’S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS	Week 4 – I BELONG	
Week 2 – I’M IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD	Week 5 – LIFE IN COMMUNITY	
Week 3 – I’M SPENDING TIME WITH GOD	Week 6 – IM ON A MISSION	Week 7– THE MISSION IS BIG

Why are Connection Groups 4 weeks on Campus and then 3 weeks off campus?

Groups on campus are called Connection Groups and are uniquely designed for new people. We provide childcare and create a ‘home turf’ experience that helps a new person feel wanted and welcomed. However, staying at the church is not our goal. We believe the best environment for great discussion is a home. This is why after 4 weeks of establishing rapport and safety the final 3 weeks the Group will meet in a home. Your group will determine which home.

What happens after the 7 weeks? We hope you have such a great experience that your group agrees to continue to meet until the summer.

Can I get the Group questions before my group? We will post all the outlines and group questions on website every Thursday at www.hopechurchonline.com/groupstime.

Are we doing an activity as a Group? We want your Group to share in God’s mission locally and globally.

- Come as a Group for the Prayer Time at Hope (Feb 29, 9-10AM)
- Commit to ‘adopting’ a missionary through praying for them daily contact matthew@hopechurchonline.com
- Be a Care Community for a Foster Family (Feb 20 Volunteer Orientation 6:30p)
- Have a BBQ and invite your neighbors. (Feb 29)

What other important dates so I need to know about?

February 20 – Foster Care Volunteer Orientation about Care Community (6:30-8pm)

February 29 – GROUPS GO Day (Plan a Neighborhood BBQ and/or be a Care Community)

March 9-15 – All Connection Groups Meet Off Campus

March 21 – Groups Picnic (12-2pm)

March 23-29 – Last week of the LOAJF Series.

April 18 – Spiritual Retreat in Mount Charleston (10-2pm)

Have more questions? Contact us at groups@hopechurchonline.com