



life groups

Share Study Serve Support

SHARE [5-10 min]

Don't Miss Important **ANNOUNCEMENTS & LEADER TIPS** on back.

Open in Prayer (Leader pray or pick someone who is comfortable praying) Remember to start on time.

WARM UP

1. Share about a time when you were "caught" doing something you shouldn't.

STUDY [about 30 min]

2. How are you doing with the spiritual practice of limiting your cell phone use this week? How is it affecting you?
3. Read **Jn 7:53-8:11**. What catches your attention from this famous story from the weekend sermon? What do you like about this story? What confuses or challenges you about it?
4. What do you think of Jesus' response to this "trap"? What do you think he was writing in the dust in v.6 & v.8? Why do you think the oldest people left first? **There are a few theories about what he was writing and why the oldest left first. But no one knows for sure. Some think Jesus wrote the Ten Commandments and/or maybe the names of the accusers next to the commandments that they themselves had broken. Who knows!? This is mostly just a fun question to speculate about.**
5. Read **Luke 7:36-50**. What are some similarities between this story and the story in John? **Both of these stories show Jesus's love for sinners and his desire to redeem and empower people to live new lives. Both stories deal with religious superiority, arrogance, and hypocrisy. Both stories show us the wisdom and the heart of Jesus.**
6. Read **Hebrews 10:15-23; Psalm 86:5-7, and 103:1-12**. What stands out to you from these scriptures? **God's willingness and readiness to forgive us when we call upon him.**
7. What do you do when you realize you have sinned? **When we realize we have sinned, we need to take responsibility for our actions, repent before God and apologize if we hurt someone. Then we need to accept God's forgiveness and move on in gratitude and freedom.**
8. What does it mean for you to go "boldly" before God's throne? (Heb 4:16 NLT) What does this look like in action? If you don't experience this yet, what is keeping you from it?
9. What has the power of Jesus' redemption looked like in your life so far?

SUPPORT

Optional Small Group Time (Men's/Women's)

We recommend that you break up into men/women only groups for deeper discussion and prayer.

10. Is there any sin in your life you are having a hard time walking away from? How can we pray for you?

Read for next week Jn 8:12-20

Close in prayer together. *Remember to honor end time and approximate group departure time.*

SERVE - Announcements & Leadership Tips

Leadership Tip: Facilitation Nuggets

Make sure everyone gets an opportunity to speak. Some people will not talk unless specifically prompted or invited to speak, but once given the opening, they are often happy to share.

Prioritize people over task. When an individual shares something of a deeply personal nature, responding to that person in a loving, empathetic way becomes the priority of the group taking precedence over completing the lesson.

Occasionally, there will be unresolved differences of opinion within the group. Unless there is heresy involved, do not feel that you must completely resolve these differences by pronouncing the "correct" answer. At such times, though, it can be helpful to acknowledge the differences while pointing out the areas on which everyone agrees. Then... move on!

The military has a motto: no man left behind. Occasionally check in with the group to make sure no one is left behind. Is the discussion becoming too academic or abstract or filled with "Christianese" language? Or conversely, is the conversation becoming too simplistic and lacking in challenge? Slow down the front runners and corral the stragglers if you need to. Keeping the Life Group as a cohesive team is a deeply held value of our Life Groups.

Announcements

Make Cards/Baskets for DHS Social Worker Appreciation Month

- Check out our events page to learn how you can serve/contribute.
- You can also email fmatz@rivervalleycc.org for details.

Life Group Spring Season Registration

- Registration opens March 26-April 3.
- Sign-up for a group at rivervalleycc.org/life-groups.

IF Table Women's Gathering

- Breakfast Potluck, Downtown Campus
- Third Sat of every month
- March 19 @ 9:30-11 am