



LifeGroups Study Guide

Week #2, September 18, 2016

1. Check-in

Open your time together with a time of checking-in in which group members are invited to share highs and lows, joys and concerns, etc. Conclude this part of the meeting with prayer. Central to what LifeGroups is all about is being intentional about being a caring community for the sake of others, the community of Christ called to care for one another, grow in faith, and seek God's guidance together.

2. Embrace the Word

Read 1 Peter 4. Use different versions of the Bible to gain a broader sense of the reading. Share with each other what you hear in this reading – what catches your ear?

3. Engage the theme: Standing Strong in Difficult Times

(Copies of the sermon are available at the Information Center and at www.oslchurch.com.)

Share with each other what you heard in the sermon for the week. Did anything in particular grab your attention? Did anything surprise you? If you could ask the preacher anything about the sermon, what would it be?

4. Discuss

- What has been the biggest test in your life?
- Have you ever been given a second chance?
- The folks at YouVersion Bible report that the most highlighted verse of the Bible in China is 1 Corinthians 10:13: “No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.” How are these words good news, especially to those who are being persecuted for their faith?
- Why is it important that your faith is tested?
- Have you ever faced persecution for your faith? What was it like? What did you do?

5. Take action

- Take time this week to reevaluate any circumstances in your life that appear to be a test or a trial. Tell someone else about them and ask them to pray for you to have the ability to persevere.
- Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18. The apostle Paul gives us his perspective on the struggles he has faced. How does he describe all the troubles he has experienced (see verse 17)?
- Before Week 3, watch the movie *God's Not Dead 2*.

6. Wrap-up

- Identify who will lead next week's discussion and where your group will meet.

- Pray as a group in a way that best fits the group's personality and preferences.
- Offer this blessing to each other (you may place your hand on their head or shoulder or trace the sign of the cross on their forehead as you share the words of blessing):

In a world filled with fear,
 may you be filled with peace,
 the peace that far surpasses
 any human understanding.

Amen.