



LifeGroups Study Guide

Week #3, September 25, 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 Matthew 16:13-28. 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: Who Do You Say I Am?

(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 was your favorite part of the movie?
- Do you think you could have done what Grace did (taking the stand she took)?
- Taking a stand often demands a level of certainty in and clarity about what we believe. On a scale of 1 (very low) to 10 (very high), rate how certain you feel about your faith and how clear you are on the aspects of your faith. What has contributed to you being where you are on each spectrum? How do you feel about where you are on each spectrum?
- Why is it important that you share your faith with others?
- In what ways could you share your faith with others?

5. Take action

- Read Romans 1. How many times does the apostle Paul mention the “gospel”? How do his words encourage and challenge you as a believer and as a witness?
- Write your response to Jesus’ question: “Who do you say that I am?” Re-visit each day for a week what you’ve written and tweak it to best say what you believe. This is your statement of faith.

6. Wrap-up

- If you’re continuing as a group, 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):

May God strengthen your resolve
to share your faith
and invite others to know the love of Jesus.

Amen.