



LifeGroups Study Guide

Week #2, January 28, 2018: “Receiving Those Whom God Sends”

In *All Saints*, there are a variety of different communities that come together across cultural boundaries: the All Saints congregants and the Karen refugee community; the small All Saints Episcopal church and the megachurch Riverview; the Southern town folks of Smyrna, Tennessee and newcomers, the Spurlocks; Christians and Buddhists, along with agnostics and “nones.”

For your time together this week, conduct your own version of an ethnographic survey, an observational study of your neighborhood. The purpose of the study is simple: to become more aware of your neighborhood and community.

Here’s what to do:

- Find a place in or around Our Savior’s (within a mile or so) where you will be able sit and watch people for 30-60 minutes. It should be a place where people gather or pass through – a coffee shop, a mall, a grocery store, a sporting event, etc.
- Sit quietly and write down everything you see during this time. Be sure NOT to make judgments about anything you see – the goal is observation.
- Consider following these guidelines for observing:
 - ✓ Divide a piece of paper into four sections. Label the sections *Gender, Age, Race, and Shoe Color*. Write down quick notes under each section.
 - ✓ Divide another piece of paper into four sections. Label the sections *Alone/Group, Clothing, Activity, and Time*.
 - ✓ Keep a tally of each person you see and write as many observations about each under the eight sections. If there’s a lull in the action, start observing other things that seem interesting to you. Maybe draw a layout of the place you are at and start to track which door people come in. The point here is just to write down as much of what you’re seeing as possible.

When you get together as a group, unpack your experience following the usual LifeGroup agenda:

1. **Connect**

Spend time checking-in with each other, sharing your highs and lows, joys and concerns, etc.

2. **Pray**

Pray with and for each other, remembering to lift up the highs and lows that were shared.

3. **Engage the Theme: Receiving Those Whom God Sends**

(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**

- Share what you observed with the members of your group.
- How might this information guide you in the way you live your life as a follower of Jesus?
- What should OSL do with the information you gathered? How can it shape our ministry with and among our neighbors?

5. **Take Action**

- As a group, submit your ideas for how OSL's ministry of Welcome and Hospitality can improve. Send your ideas to Pastor Randy, rgehring@oslchurch.com and he will share them with the Board of Outreach.

6. **Planning for Next Week**

- For next week, pick up and read the articles on immigration and refugees at the kiosk near the Information Center at OSL. They will also be available on our website, www.oslchurch.com.
- Spend time exploring the website www.lirs.org to learn about the ELCA's ministry with refugees.

7. **Wrap-up**

- Pray as a group in a way that best fits the group's personality and preferences.
- Share a sign of peace with each other before you leave.