

# Do Life Different: Small Group Guide

May 10, 2026

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**Icebreaker Question:** Share one memorable saying your mom (or mother figure) used when you were growing up. Why has it stuck with you?

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## Key Takeaways

This week's sermon challenged us to "do life different" - not to gain recognition for ourselves, but to reflect Christ in everything we do. We explored **Colossians 3:15-17** and three practical ways to live distinctively as followers of Jesus.

- ✓ **Live for Jesus** - Make this the memorable statement we pass to the next generation
  - ✓ **Do life in peace** - Christ's peace comes from the cross and sustains us through all circumstances
  - ✓ **Do life with thankfulness** - Cultivate gratitude over criticism; aim for a 2:1 ratio of thanks to critique
  - ✓ **Do life in the Word** - Daily engagement with Scripture transforms us from the inside out
  - ✓ **Parent differently** - Raise kingdom difference-makers, not just successful citizens
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## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Message

1. **What's the difference between "dare to be different" and "do life different"?** Why does this distinction matter for Christians?
2. **Read Colossians 3:3-4.** What does it mean that "Christ is your life"? How does this perspective change the way we approach daily living?
3. The sermon emphasized that **"we can't make a difference if we are not different."** Do you agree or disagree? Why?

### Do Life in Peace

4. **How is the peace of Christ different from the world's version of peace?** Share an example of when you've experienced "peace that passes understanding" in a difficult situation.
5. The sermon used the illustration of Don Richardson's "Peace Child" to explain how peace with God begins at the cross. How does understanding Christ's sacrifice help you maintain peace in daily struggles?
6. **Practical Challenge:** What specific situation in your life right now is threatening your peace? How can you apply the truth that "Christ is your life" to that situation this week?

## Do Life with Thankfulness

7. **Tomorrow's Exercise:** The sermon challenged us to track critical statements versus thankful statements. Without actually doing the exercise yet, what do you think the ratio would be for you? Why?
8. How does a culture of excellence (in academics, performance, work) sometimes work against a spirit of thankfulness? How can we maintain both high standards and grateful hearts?
9. **Share examples:** When have you seen someone's thankful spirit make a noticeable difference in a difficult situation or relationship?

## Do Life in the Word

10. The pastor shared his personal testimony of reading Scripture daily for decades and how it changed his life. **For those who have a regular Bible reading habit:** What has been the impact on your life? **For those who struggle with consistency:** What obstacles get in the way?
11. **Colossians 3:16** says to let the message of Christ "dwell among you richly." What does it look like for God's Word to dwell "richly" versus just occasionally visiting our lives?

## Parenting Differently (if applicable to your group)

12. The sermon stated: "**Our goal in parenting is not for our kids to get a great education or to be a great athlete or to find a great husband or to get a great career. Our goal is for them to love a great God.**" How does this reordering of priorities change practical parenting decisions?
13. What does it look like to teach children to win well and lose well, all for Jesus? Share practical examples.

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## Prayer Time

- Thank God for the peace that comes through Christ's sacrifice
- Ask the Holy Spirit to cultivate grateful hearts within us
- Pray for consistency in reading and applying God's Word
- Ask for courage to live differently in ways that point others to Jesus
- Pray specifically for parents/grandparents to raise children who love God above all

## Closing Prayer:

*Lord Jesus, help us to do life different—not for our own recognition, but so that your light shines clearly to a world that desperately needs you. Give us your peace, cultivate thankfulness in our hearts, and draw us daily into your Word. May our lives be so transformed by you that others see the difference and are drawn to the hope we have. We commit to living wholly for you, starting today. In your name, Amen.*