

Life Group Lesson Outline

Jesus Loves California: God on Mission

Date: September 20th, 2026

Icebreaker (10-15 minutes)

Purpose: Encourage fellowship and set a comfortable tone.

Relational Exercise:

- Evangelism, at its most basic level, is about sharing a good message. We “evangelize” every day about things we love, care about, and enjoy - from ice cream flavors to sports teams, from our favorite cosmetics to our favorite tools.
 - Take 1-2 minutes each to “evangelize” or share about something you love or that brings you joy. Share something specifically that will let others in your group know about you. The goal at this point is not so much to persuade them to love what you love, but to share with them what you love and enjoy.
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Lesson / Discussion (30-40 minutes)

1. Opening Scripture Reading: John 3:16-17; 3:34; 14:26; 15:26; 16:7; 17:3

2. Question 1 = In the book of Jonah, God’s concern for Nineveh is contrasted with Jonah’s callousness and resentment toward the city. How have you noticed in yourself or others a similar heart posture toward California?

3. Question 2 = Pastor Sam’s main point was that “outreach begins and ends with God.” How have you seen, in your own life and in the lives of others, God working in the hearts of people you know (perhaps even in ways that had nothing to do with you)?

4. Question 3 = It is not uncommon for Christians to feel anxious about reaching out to friends, family, neighbors, and others in their community. Have you experienced this anxiety, if so how? Also, how does the main point that God is the beginning and end of outreach alleviate some of the pressure you might feel?

5. Reflection / Prayer = Take time this week to memorize John 3:16-17 and to pray for friends, family, neighbors, co-workers that “don’t know their right hand from their left.”

Prayer Requests (10-30 minutes)

- Invite group members to share prayer needs. It would be good for the Leader to start this sharing time.
- Close with prayer, praying for each request. (if they are comfortable, have each person pray for the person next to them and if anyone is not comfortable have someone fill in for them)

- **Leader Notes** [Space for personal notes or reflections]

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