

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

PAUL



St. John's
CHURCH



RENEWAL
CHURCH

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

FOR LIFE GROUP LEADERS

Leaders, use this Life Group Study Guide to facilitate Christ-centered conversations each week. Feel free to be creative with the questions, using it as a guide or following it word-for-word. Review each week before Life Group starts and pray for your group!

PARTICIPANTS

Feel free to use this Life Group Study Guide during Life Group, take notes during the sermon, or use for continued learning. We hope it blesses you as you grow in your relationship with Jesus and others!

LIFE GROUP LEADER'S GUIDE: 6 TIPS FOR A GREAT LIFE GROUP

*Leading a Life Group is a chance to help others grow in their faith.
Here's a quick guide to creating meaningful gatherings based on
Bill Search's 6 Tips for a Great Small Group.*

1. Use Curriculum

- Provides structure and biblical teaching.
- Review materials ahead of time and tailor them to your group.

2. Lead Great Discussions

- Create a respectful and open environment.
- Keep discussions focused and involve everyone.

3. Ask Great Questions

- Use open-ended questions to spark deeper thinking.
- Follow up with questions that encourage application.

4. Listen

- Show care by listening without interrupting.
- Reflect back what you hear to ensure understanding.

5. Study the Bible

- Keep God's Word central.
- Read Scripture together and discuss its meaning and application.

6. Pray Together

- Begin and end with prayer.
- Share specific requests and pray in smaller groups when needed.

*Your leadership makes an eternal impact. Stay faithful, rely on God,
and trust He's working through you!*

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds..."

—Hebrews 10:24-25

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO PAUL

OVERVIEW

The Gospel According to Paul invites us to see that the gospel is not just the starting point of the Christian life. It is the very foundation and formation of it. Through Paul's writings, often called "Epistles," the gospel declares us righteous by faith in Christ alone. This sermon series is an invitation to not just believe the gospel, but to be transformed by it in all areas of our lives.

This Life Group Study Guide follows the *Gospel According to Paul* sermon series week by week. Each gathering is structured to engage the Head (biblical understanding), Heart (personal reflection), and Hands (faithful response), with same-gender Huddle Groups for deeper accountability and prayer.

WEEK 1

SALVATION: THE GOSPEL IS RIGHTEOUSNESS

Opening Prayer

Lord, we come before You, empty of righteousness, away from You. Teach us to receive what only You can give. In Jesus' name, amen.

Read the Text

Philippians 3:2-11

Feel free to take any notes below:



WEEK 1

SALVATION: THE GOSPEL IS RIGHTEOUSNESS

- HEAD**
1. What does righteousness mean in this text?
 2. Why should we not have confidence in the flesh?
 3. What does it mean to share in Christ's sufferings?

- HEART**
1. Where do you typically base your identity on when apart from Christ?
 2. Where do you struggle to believe that Christ's righteousness is enough for you?
 3. What has changed in you since gaining Christ? What still needs to be changed?

- HANDS**
1. Where do you need to stop striving and start trusting?
 2. What practical ways can you be daily reminded of your identity in Christ?

- HUDDLE** Break off into same-gender huddle groups and discuss:
1. Where do you put confidence in your own works rather than in Christ?

WEEK 1

SALVATION: THE GOSPEL IS RIGHTEOUSNESS

MEMORY VERSE

“For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.” -Romans 3:28

SPIRITUALLY VIBRANT HOME

Practice speaking identity in Christ over yourself in the mirror this week.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

PAUL



St. John's
CHURCH



RENEWAL
CHURCH

WEEK 2

SALVATION: THE GOSPEL BRINGS HUMILITY

Opening Prayer

God, strip away our pride, and lead us to the foot of the cross. Amen.

Read the Text

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Feel free to take any notes below:



WEEK 2

SALVATION: THE GOSPEL BRINGS HUMILITY

- HEAD**
1. How can the word of the cross and Christ crucified be a stumbling block to people?
 2. Where in the Bible have you seen examples of God choosing foolish things in the world to shame the wise?

- HEART**
1. Where does pride show up in your life?
 2. Where do you struggle to embrace weakness?
 3. How has God shown you humility lately?

- HANDS**
1. How is the message of Christ crucified a stumbling block for you?
 2. Who needs to hear about the word of the cross this week?
 3. Where can you surrender control or the need to be right?

- HUDDLE**
- Break off into same-gender huddle groups and discuss:
1. Where is pride keeping you from deeper dependence on God?

WEEK 2

SALVATION: THE GOSPEL BRINGS HUMILITY

MEMORY VERSE

“Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” -1 Corinthians 1:31

SPIRITUALLY VIBRANT HOME

Confess pride and write down moments gratitude in a notebook or on your phone this week.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

PAUL



St. John's
CHURCH



RENEWAL
CHURCH

WEEK 3

SALVATION: THE GOSPEL MAKES US ALIVE

Opening Prayer

Jesus, thank You for making us alive when we were dead in sin! We praise You for who You are. Amen.

Read the Text

Ephesians 2:1-10

Feel free to take any notes below:



WEEK 3

SALVATION: THE GOSPEL MAKES US ALIVE

HEAD

1. What words does Paul use to describe our condition before God?
2. What is grace according to this text?
3. What are we saved for according to verse 10?

HEART

1. Where is it hard to accept grace from God in your life?
2. How can grace reshape your view of yourself?
3. Do you live more like someone alive in Christ or still dead in your trespasses? How?

HANDS

1. What good works might God be calling you into this week?
2. Where have you seen God's kindness in your life recently?
3. Who can you speak grace over this week?

HUDDLE Break off into same-gender huddle groups and discuss:

1. Where do you still feel spiritually "dead"?



St. John's
CHURCH



RENEWAL
CHURCH

WEEK 3

SALVATION: THE GOSPEL MAKES US ALIVE

MEMORY VERSE “By grace you have been saved through faith.” -Ephesians 2:8

SPIRITUALLY VIBRANT HOME Share stories of how God has brought life out of death.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
PAUL



WEEK 4

COMMUNITY: THE CHURCH HAS ONE MIND

Opening Prayer

Lord, unite us in heart, mind, and purpose as Your Church, whom You love. Amen.

Read the Text

Philippians 1:27-2:4

Feel free to take any notes below:



WEEK 4

COMMUNITY: THE CHURCH HAS ONE MIND

- HEAD**
1. What does it mean to live “worthy of the gospel”?
 2. How does Paul define unity in this text?
 3. How does Paul’s definition of humility compare to how the world sees humility?

- HEART**
1. Where do you struggle with unity in the Church (consider both in the congregation and other believers)?
 2. How can our personal preferences interfere with the unity that Paul seeks in this text?
 3. Where might you struggle to agree with Paul in these verses?

- HANDS**
1. What does unity look like for you this week?
 2. Where can you put others before yourself?
 3. Where can your own interests take a backseat this week to live a life worthy of the gospel of Christ?

- HUDDLE** Break off into same-gender huddle groups and discuss:
1. Where are you tempted to divide rather than unify?

WEEK 4

COMMUNITY: THE CHURCH HAS ONE MIND

MEMORY VERSE

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.” -Philippians 2:3

SPIRITUALLY VIBRANT HOME

Practice putting others first in your household or jobs this week.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

PAUL



St. John's
CHURCH



RENEWAL
CHURCH

WEEK 5

COMMUNITY: THE CHURCH IS UNITED

Opening Prayer

God, thank You for making us one in Christ. Amen.

Read the Text

Ephesians 2:11-22

Feel free to take any notes below:



St. John's
CHURCH



RENEWAL
CHURCH

WEEK 5

COMMUNITY: THE CHURCH IS UNITED

- HEAD**
1. Choose one word to describe this entire passage. What made you choose that word?
 2. What does it mean that we are one new humanity?
 3. How is the Church described in these verses?

- HEART**
1. Where have you experienced division or bias in the Church?
 2. How does the gospel challenge your comfort zones in light of division and bias?
 3. What does belonging in God's family personally mean to you?

- HANDS**
1. Who are people who are still far off from the love of Christ?
 2. Where do you see the need for unity within the Church? Outside the Church?
 3. How can our group reflect unity?

- HUDDLE**
- Break off into same-gender huddle groups and discuss:
1. Where is God calling you to seek unity over comfort?

WEEK 5

COMMUNITY: THE CHURCH IS UNITED

MEMORY VERSE

"He himself is our peace." -
Ephesians 2:14

SPIRITUALLY VIBRANT HOME

Be open to having a spiritual conversation this week with someone who may think differently from you. Look for ways of unity in your conversation.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

PAUL



St. John's
CHURCH



RENEWAL
CHURCH

WEEK 6

COMMUNITY: THE CHURCH IS GIFTED

Opening Prayer

Lord, help us use our gifts to serve one another in love this week. Amen.

Read the Text

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Feel free to take any notes below:



St. John's
CHURCH



RENEWAL
CHURCH

WEEK 6

COMMUNITY: THE CHURCH IS GIFTED

- HEAD**
1. How does Paul describe the body of Christ?
 2. What happens when one part suffers or rejoices?
 3. Why do you think Paul wrote this? Do you think this text still applies today?

- HEART**
1. How do you view your role in the Church?
 2. Where do you feel inadequate or unnecessary?
 3. Do you tend to celebrate others' gifts or compare yourself?

- HANDS**
1. How can you serve the body this week?
 2. Where can you encourage someone else's gifting?
 3. What step can you take to get more involved? If already involved, what would it look like to encourage others to get involved?

- HUDDLE** Break off into same-gender huddle groups and discuss:
1. Where are you withholding your gifts to serving the Church?

WEEK 6

COMMUNITY: THE CHURCH IS GIFTED

MEMORY VERSE

"You are the body of Christ and individually members of it." -1 Corinthians 12:27

SPIRITUALLY VIBRANT HOME

Affirm each other's gifts and roles this week.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

PAUL



St. John's
CHURCH



RENEWAL
CHURCH

WEEK 7

IDENTITY: DEAD TO SIN

Opening Prayer

Lord, help us walk in freedom from sin and death. In Jesus' name, amen.

Read the Text

Romans 6:1-15

Feel free to take any notes below:



St. John's
CHURCH



RENEWAL
CHURCH

WEEK 7

IDENTITY: DEAD TO SIN

- HEAD**
1. What does it mean to be united with Christ in His death?
 2. Why can we no longer live in sin?
 3. What does it mean to present ourselves to God?

- HEART**
1. How do you struggle to live in the freedom of grace?
 2. What lies do you still believe about sin?

- HANDS**
1. What could confessing your sin look like regularly for you?
 2. How can you live under grace this week?
 3. What daily practices could you do to keep sin from ruling over you?

- HUDDLE** Break off into same-gender huddle groups and discuss:
1. Where might sin still be reigning in your life?

WEEK 7

IDENTITY: DEAD TO SIN

MEMORY VERSE

“Consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” - Romans 6:11

SPIRITUALLY VIBRANT HOME

Practice confession and absolution (speaking forgiveness) together.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

PAUL



St. John's
CHURCH



RENEWAL
CHURCH

WEEK 8

IDENTITY: FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

Opening Prayer

Holy Spirit, lead us into lives marked by love. Amen.

Read the Text

Galatians 5:13-26

Feel free to take any notes below:



WEEK 8

IDENTITY: FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

- HEAD**
1. What is the contrast between the flesh and the Spirit?
 2. In verse 22, Paul describes the fruit of the Spirit. Notice that “fruit” is singular, but lists 9 of them. Why is that important to note?

- HEART**
1. Where do you see the works of the flesh around you?
 2. Which fruit of the Spirit do you struggle to see growing in your own life?
 3. How dependent are you on the Spirit?

- HANDS**
1. What can dependence on the Spirit look like, based on the fruit that He provides?
 2. What habit can you build to stay in step with Him?
 3. Commit to memorizing the fruit of the Spirit together this week!

- HUDDLE**
- Break off into same-gender huddle groups and discuss:
1. Share a fruit of the Spirit you see working in someone’s life in your group.

WEEK 8

IDENTITY: FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

MEMORY VERSE

“Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” - Galatians 5:16

SPIRITUALLY VIBRANT HOME

Practice identifying and celebrating the fruit of the Spirit in someone’s life this week.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

PAUL



St. John's
CHURCH



RENEWAL
CHURCH

WEEK 9

IDENTITY: CHOSEN FOR LOVE

Opening Prayer

God, clothe us with compassion and love and put to death what is earthly within us. Amen.

Read the Text

Colossians 3:5-17

Feel free to take any notes below:



WEEK 9

IDENTITY: CHOSEN FOR LOVE

- HEAD**
1. What are we called to put to death? What are we called to put on?
 2. Why does Paul mention identities in verse 11? What importance does it play in putting to death earthly things?
 3. What role does the Word play?

- HEART**
1. What old patterns are hard to let go of?
 2. Where do you struggle to forgive?
 3. How does your identity shape your behavior?

- HANDS**
1. What do you need to “put off” this week?
 2. What do you need to “put on”?
 3. What role does the Word of Christ play in your life?

- HUDDLE** Break off into same-gender huddle groups and discuss:
1. When you give in to what is earthly in you, what deeper need or desire are you trying to satisfy?

WEEK 9

IDENTITY: CHOSEN FOR LOVE

MEMORY VERSE

“Put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” -Colossians 3:14

SPIRITUALLY VIBRANT HOME

Practice reading, admonishing, and singing God’s Word this week.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

PAUL



St. John's
CHURCH



RENEWAL
CHURCH

WEEK 10

MEANS OF GRACE: GOD'S WORD

Opening Prayer

Lord, shape us through Your Word. Amen.

Read the Text

2 Timothy 3:16-4:5

Feel free to take any notes below:



St. John's
CHURCH



RENEWAL
CHURCH

WEEK 10

MEANS OF GRACE: GOD'S WORD

- HEAD**
1. What is Scripture useful for? What does this mean?
 2. How are we made complete through the Scriptures?
 3. Where do you see people struggling to endure sound teaching?

- HEART**
1. How consistent are you in engaging with Scripture?
 2. What resistance/hesitations do you feel toward God's Word as you read it?
 3. How have you seen Scripture shape your life?

- HANDS**
1. What rhythm can you establish with Scripture?
 2. How can you apply what you read?
 3. Who can you study Scripture with?

- HUDDLE** Break off into same-gender huddle groups and discuss:
1. What is keeping you from deeper engagement with God's Word?

WEEK 10

MEANS OF GRACE: GOD'S WORD

MEMORY VERSE

"All Scripture is breathed out by God." - 2 Timothy 3:16

SPIRITUALLY VIBRANT HOME

Read Scripture together daily this week. Pick a Bible reading plan and start together this week!

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

PAUL



St. John's
CHURCH



RENEWAL
CHURCH

WEEK 11

MEANS OF GRACE: BAPTISM

Opening Prayer

Lord, remind us of our identity in baptism. Amen.

Read the Text

Titus 3:3-8

Feel free to take any notes below:



MEANS OF GRACE: BAPTISM

- HEAD**
1. How does Paul describe our salvation through the Holy Spirit?
 2. Read Peter's take on baptism in 1 Peter 3:18-22. What connections does Peter make regarding baptism, and how do these two passages relate to one another?
 3. How does baptism connect to identity?

- HEART**
1. What questions do you have about baptism? *If someone in the group is struggling with their baptism or would like to get re-baptized, please consider going to Ephesians 4:4-6 and reach out to AJ Vega if they have any questions.*
 2. Recall the last time you saw a baptism. What was mentioned?
 3. What does a new life in Christ mean for you?

- HANDS**
1. How can you remember your baptism daily?
 2. How can you walk in newness of life?
 3. Who can you share your testimony with?

- HUDDLE** Break off into same-gender huddle groups and discuss:
1. In what areas of your life do you forget who you are in Christ?

WEEK 11

MEANS OF GRACE: BAPTISM

MEMORY VERSE

“He saved us... by the washing of regeneration.” -Titus 3:5

SPIRITUALLY VIBRANT HOME

Share your baptism story. If you haven't yet been baptized, feel free to share with your Life Group Leader or with Pastor Andrew!

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

PAUL



St. John's
CHURCH



RENEWAL
CHURCH

WEEK 12

MEANS OF GRACE: COMMUNION

Opening Prayer

Jesus, help us cherish Your body and blood given for us. Amen.

Read the Text

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Feel free to take any notes below:



WEEK 12

MEANS OF GRACE: COMMUNION

- HEAD**
1. According to this text, what is the purpose of Communion?
 2. Why does Paul warn about taking Communion unworthily?
 3. What does it mean to examine ourselves?

- HEART**
1. What do you experience as you approach Communion?
 2. Jesus says that the bread and the wine that we eat and drink are His body and blood. Why is it important that we remember that? *Other denominations have differing views of the Lord's Supper. If those in your group are non-Lutheran, consider sharing what we believe as the "Real Presence" in Communion.

- HANDS**
1. How can you prepare your heart for Communion?
 2. What relationships need reconciliation as you think of Communion as a collective experience with other believers?
 3. How can you deepen your reverence for Christ?

- HUDDLE**
- Break off into same-gender huddle groups and discuss:
1. What do you need to bring before the Lord in repentance?

WEEK 12

MEANS OF GRACE: COMMUNION

MEMORY VERSE

"Do this in remembrance of me."
-1 Corinthians 11:24

SPIRITUALLY VIBRANT HOME

Reflect on the gospel together before
taking Communion.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

PAUL



St. John's
CHURCH



RENEWAL
CHURCH

BAPTISM

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Baptism is recognized in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (our denomination) as one of two sacraments. A sacrament is something that includes a physical element (i.e., water) included with God's Word, and is instituted and/or commanded by God (Matthew 28:19-20).

Though often seen as symbolic and a decision, Lutherans understand it as God coming and claiming people as His own into His family. Through the washing with water (amount does not matter), one is cleansed from all sin and unrighteousness, and has been drowned in their sin, and raised to new life (Romans 6:3-4). By faith, one receives the gift of the Holy Spirit, and God's name has been placed on them. They now live in a new life in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Although one can walk away from their baptismal identity in Christ, God will never leave or abandon His baptized children of God. We believe in **one** baptism for the forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 4:5).



COMMUNION

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Communion, also referred to as the Lord's Supper, is the second sacrament that is recognized. A sacrament is also known as a means of grace, which is a gift given to the Church by God Himself.

Often misunderstood about Communion is the meaning behind the words, "this is my body," and "this is my blood." Many other denominations view it as symbolic, but Lutherans recognize it as the "Real Presence" of Jesus. Though we can clearly see it is bread, Jesus calls it His body. Though we can clearly see it as wine, Jesus calls it His blood.

We do not intend to mince Jesus' words to interpret what He meant, as He does not use metaphors in these words, as He does with His parables. So, we take Jesus' words just as He said. The Real Presence of Communion means that Jesus' body and blood are in, with, and under the bread and wine as the words of institution are spoken over these elements. Just as Paul warned the Corinthians, one should examine oneself and repent before receiving Jesus' body and blood.

Our beliefs are how the early church fathers unanimously understood Jesus' words. Symbolic views of the sacraments did not appear in church history until the 16th century.

