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Student Life Camp 2026

Life Group Leader Guide

I AM THE VINE  YOU ARE THE BRANCHES



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DAY 1: EVENING LIFE GROUP

Main Point:

Parables are Jesus' way of revealing the kingdom of God—hiding truth from the proud and unveiling it to the humble.

LIFE GROUP OVERVIEW

SERVICE REFLECTION

Question 1

What stood out to you most from the service?

Question 2

If you could ask God one question about the service, what would it be?

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Focus Passage: Matthew 13:44-46

Question 1

Why do you think the "kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field"?

Question 2

In what ways can you see the kingdom of heaven as a priceless pearl? Why does it imply that we would give up everything to receive the Kingdom?

Question 3

How does knowing Jesus gave everything up for you influence the way that you value your own self-worth and identity?

PRAY & CLOSE



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DAY 1: EVENING LIFE GROUP HELPFUL LEADER RESOURCES

As a Life Group Leader, you're doing more than leading a discussion-you're creating space for your students to reflect on what God is doing in their hearts. The Life Group Leader Guide is designed to equip you with thoughtful questions and additional resources to highlight the main point of each day. Reviewing this guide BEFORE each session is highly recommended, as it includes supporting Scripture and discussion questions to enhance your leadership.

As you review this guide, you will find that each Life Group session begins with two questions to help students process what they heard during the service. These questions are designed to help students recognize that God is speaking both personally and purposefully to each of them. As you begin your Life Group session, release the pressure to have all the "right" answers to respond with. Your role is simply to guide, listen, and create an atmosphere where students feel safe to be honest with themselves and with God. If a question comes your way that you don't feel equipped to answer, simply say, "I'm not sure, let me ask our pastor." God wants your participation, not your perfection. Enter this time with great hope and expectation, trusting that He will meet you exactly where you are.

OPTIONAL ICEBREAKER : THE UNSPOKEN REPORT

Instruct students to silently choose someone from the group to be a "missing person." Select a leader to play the role of a "secret agent" to find out who the missing person is. As the agent asks questions to fill out a missing persons report, the group must respond without speaking, writing, or mouthing words - using only actions, gestures, or by pointing to objects in the room, their own clothing, or features on others. The goal is for the group to communicate a shared understanding of the missing person clearly enough that the secret agent can correctly identify the missing person.

Example Agent Questions:

- What is this person usually doing?
- What are some identifying details about them?
- What are they passionate about or known for?
- Who are they usually with or connected to?
- Where might we find them if we were looking today?

Focus Passage: Matthew 13:44-46



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CONTEXT

In Matthew 13, Jesus reveals a deep truth through a simple and relatable story about God's kingdom, also called a *parable*. This text about a hidden treasure and priceless pearl reveals God's heart toward humanity. The kingdom of God is worth giving up everything we love. As we walk in awareness of the gift God has offered to us, that knowledge will shift what we value in the world. Though the world aims to rob us from the treasure of knowing and trusting Jesus, He continues to offer life and salvation to those who choose to walk in His ways and seek His presence.

MAIN POINT: NOTES

Jesus sees so much value in each of us that He willingly gave His life to make us His own. To the ancient world, a pearl was a beautiful and valuable possession. So while it may seem foolish for a merchant to sell everything for just *one* pearl, Jesus uses this example to reveal the significance of the gift of salvation.

We exist in a world that constantly aims to define our worth by our status and accomplishments like grades, sports, or popularity. The enemy is constantly at work, trying to convince us that our value is found in the things of this world. However, when we are reminded of the truth of who God is and who we are in Christ, these lies fade away. Intentionally recalling our identity in Jesus is what allows us to stand firm in a world that seeks to pull us down. God saw our brokenness, knew our need, and gave us His Son, Jesus. When Jesus died on the cross for our sin, He gave us access to a new name, new story, and new purpose.

As we begin to know God, His character, and His nature, our confidence will deepen. He is the only treasure worth pursuing. The way we spend our money, give our time, and use our talents is influenced by God. Knowing this, we can expect to look and live differently than the world. Though it can be difficult to give up everything to follow Jesus, we can trust that His heart is for us to experience the riches of heaven. As we walk in this assurance, the treasure of knowing Christ becomes worth our every effort—worth pursuing, worth sacrificing, and worth freely sharing with those around us.

QUESTIONS STUDENTS MIGHT HAVE

How can I be sure that God views my life as valuable?

- **1 Peter 1:18-19; Isaiah 43:4-5**
 - When we believe in Jesus and follow Him with our lives, we don't have to experience a purposeless life here on earth. We can know that God values our lives more than we could ever comprehend. His Word offers hope and security,



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reminding us of our new identity and assuring us that His promises will always be fulfilled.

Does God really know what I need *and* what I want?

- **Matthew 6:6-8; Psalm 34:8-10; Matthew 7:11**

- We can rest in the security of knowing that before our lips speak a word, our Father knows exactly what we are going to say. Jesus calls us by name, and He knows our needs and also our desires! His ability to give good gifts surpasses even the best of friends and the closest of family. As we lay our requests before Him, He provides for us in His perfect timing. The deeper we grow in relationship with Him, the more we will see that the best gift we need most is Jesus Himself

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DAY 2: MORNING LIFE GROUP

Main Point:

True righteousness comes from humble repentance and God's grace, not from self-righteousness or good works performed with pride.

LIFE GROUP OVERVIEW

SERVICE REFLECTION

Question 1

What stood out to you most from the service?

Question 2

If you could ask God one question about the service, what would it be?

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Focus Passage: Psalm 51

Question 1

David had to own, confess, and turn away from his sin. How might God be calling you to do the same today?

Question 2

Do you find yourself trying to earn forgiveness out of your own strength or by trusting in God's mercy for you?

Question 3

How does knowing God forgives you without hesitation impact the way you forgive others?

PRAY & CLOSE



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DAY 2: MORNING LIFE GROUP HELPFUL LEADER RESOURCES

Hey Life Group Leaders, it's time to dive into the next Life Group session! This morning's worship service reminded us that it is only by God's grace that we are able to possess a life marked by righteousness. Students were reminded that rather than good works, humility is the gateway to repentance. In this Life Group session, we'll explore the life of David to understand how the posture of our heart positions us to walk in righteousness. Before diving into the focus passage, feel free to kick things off with a fun icebreaker. It's a great way to help your group connect and create a welcoming space for conversation.

OPTIONAL ICEBREAKER: TELEPHONE: SL EDITION

Direct everyone to get in a circle. Choose one student to pick a fun and creative sentence that pertains to Student Life Camp and whisper it to the Life Group Leader. Once the leader approves the sentence, the student will whisper it to the person next to them. Allow each person in the group to listen and repeat this sentence until everyone has had a turn. The last person in the group will share what he heard. Then the first student will reveal the original sentence. For example, the original sentence might be something like, "At Student Life Camp, Life Group Leaders hide chocolate in the cabins for a surprise treat!" By the time it reaches the last person, the sentence may have changed in funny or unexpected ways!

Focus Passage: Psalm 51

CONTEXT

David's life was not perfect. It had many ups and downs that included victory, defeat, joy, and sorrow. He was first found as the shepherd boy caring for sheep in the field before becoming a national hero conquering the Philistine giant Goliath. He then grew into a successful leader in the military and was eventually named the King of Israel. His life was filled with both sin and repentance, shame and honor, and distance and intimacy with God. In 2 Samuel 12, David was confronted by the prophet Nathan over his sin, and experienced the mercy of God. God's kindness to redeem David's sin leads him to genuine repentance. In Psalm 51, David expresses his thoughts and reveals his heart's desire to grow in integrity, wisdom, and obedience to God. He had experienced the mercy of God and wanted to live a life full of righteousness and humility in response.



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MAIN POINT: NOTES

At the start of Psalm 51, we see David's desperate cry for mercy. David knew that the self-justification for his sin had to cease in order to experience forgiveness. Not only was David aware and took ownership of his sin as he was confronted, he also chose not to hide or shift the blame on those around him. He wrote, "I am conscious of my rebellion," making it apparent that David examined his heart and his actions. David recognized the sin that stole his intimacy with God.

So what led David to this point? Why did he so desperately desire to be cleansed of sin and walk in righteousness? In this period of David's life, he demonstrated *Godly grief* over his sin. It wasn't a passing regret, but a profound sorrow that deeply grieved him. While shame and regret can awaken our awareness to the sin in our lives, here we see that true cleansing of sin always begins with the inner man (the heart). David knew he needed to be cleansed from his sin, so he cried out to God. David didn't present his resume or list of all of the "good" things he had done for God. Instead, he chose to trust in the character of God—His loving-kindness and mercy toward all men.

As we examine our hearts, we often find deeper issues like pride, insecurity, jealousy, greed, and the need to have total control. The enemy wants to keep us on the path of resisting righteousness as these symptoms take root in our hearts. But quite the opposite, we see that David has a yielded heart—fully surrendered to God. David's request was that God would not only clean his heart, but also give him a renewed spirit—the foundation for true and lasting repentance. A right spirit is a humble spirit—one that isn't afraid of correction, but actually longs for it. God's heart is to see His people grow in righteousness and be filled with a joy that can only be found in His presence.

QUESTIONS STUDENTS MIGHT ASK

Why is obedience so important to God?

- **1 Samuel 15:22**

- Obedience is how we show that we trust and are willing to live as God has instructed us. Offering our time, resources, and finances to God are all good things. The Father's heart rejoices when His children choose the path of obedience. The words, "Yes, Lord" should always be our response, no matter what.

What makes pride so bad?

- **James 4:6**



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- Pride demands that I get what I want, when I want. Humbleness allows us to recognize our need for grace and gives us the ability to receive it. Weakness becomes strength when we let go of relying on our own merit and place ourselves in the hands of the One who freely gives Himself and His grace in every season.

Why is a life of humbleness worth pursuing?

- **1 Peter 5:5-6**

- Just like in James 4 and Psalm 51, there is a call to resist pride and embrace humbleness. While the world wants us to constantly embrace self-validation and pride, God's Word tells us to be humble. *The enemy wants you to believe that living a life marked by humbleness will set you back, steal your success, and deplete your joy. God's Word assures us of the opposite. He will honor, lift up, and exalt those who remain in Him!*

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DAY 2: EVENING LIFE GROUP

Main Point:

Our hearts determine how God's Word takes root in us; being good soil is essential to spiritual growth.

LIFE GROUP OVERVIEW

SERVICE REFLECTION

Question 1

What stood out to you most from the service?

Question 2

If you could ask God one question about the service, what would it be?

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Focus Passage: John 15:1-8

Question 1

Is there anything holding you back from being connected to the "true vine"?

Question 2

What do you think it means for God to produce spiritual fruit in your life?

Question 3

Are you "familiar with" or "feasting on" God's Word?

PRAY & CLOSE



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DAY 2: EVENING LIFE GROUP HELPFUL LEADER RESOURCES

Hey, Life Group Leaders! It's time to dive into the last Life Group session of the day with your students. Tonight's teaching reminded students the importance of keeping our hearts well-cultivated so that spiritual fruit can be produced. Just like healthy soil needs the right nutrients to remain rich and productive, our hearts require life-giving nutrients that come from abiding in Jesus.

In John 15, Jesus teaches that if we remain in Him and keep His commandments, He will provide all we need to bear fruit that lasts for eternity. Before you dive in, take a look at the optional icebreaker below to help engage your students at the beginning of your Life Group session.

OPTIONAL ICEBREAKER: "CAMP"MERCIALS!

Form small teams and give each team a random, everyday object, like a backpack, shoe, or water bottle. Each team's task is to work together to create a funny and over-the-top "infomercial" promoting the object. Be sure to use demonstrations, exaggerated claims, and a catchy slogan or jingle! Provide teams about five to seven minutes to plan their commercials. Then allow each team to perform for the group. Have your students vote for their favorite infomercial!

For example, a team given a water bottle might claim that the bottle can "turn any water into the world's most delicious energy drink," demonstrate someone dramatically sipping from it and suddenly gaining superhero strength. They would finish with the catchy slogan, "Hydrate like a hero—drink the power!"

Focus Passage: John 15:1-8

CONTEXT

For some students in your group, John 15 might be a familiar passage, but for others, these truths might be brand new. The words that Jesus shared with the disciples before His crucifixion serve as both a cautionary warning and as a source of encouragement. Jesus highlights the **HOW** behind producing fruit and the **WHY** behind His instruction. No matter where you and your students find themselves in their walk with Jesus, the invitation and instruction are clear—Jesus tells us to remain in Him.

MAIN POINT: NOTES



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In a world where the key to success is often associated with more doing, producing, or adapting, it can be difficult to remain. In John 15:3, Jesus tells His disciples that they are clean because of the word that He had spoken to them (the Gospel). The imagery described in John 15 reveals God as the “true vine” and man as the branches, fully dependent on Him to produce spiritual fruit. Scripture tells us that He not only longs to be in relationship with us, but that His Father is glorified by that relationship. While His mercy draws us closer and His kindness leads us to repentance, we also have a responsibility! When Jesus died on the cross for our sin and rose again, He made the way for us to be connected to Him. But we must choose to take a step in actively participating *with* the work of His Spirit.

As we understand who God is and what His character is like, we now have to answer the question: *How can we carry this out in our daily lives?* God invites us to share the good news and to tell others about Him. When we accept His invitation, our participation becomes our response. This participation can look different for each person as our skillsets and talents are different. However, they can all be traced back to one common practice: actively abiding in Jesus so that we might walk in obedience and be transformed by His presence. God’s words are meant for more than memorization and repetition. He intended for us to feast on His words.

The word *feast* is often associated with celebrating, indulging, or delighting—all words used to describe the kind of invitation God offers to those who walk in His ways. When we choose to feast on the Word of God, we are choosing the life of righteousness, obedience, and deliverance. Although trials will still come, His words are filled with promises of strength, hope, and wisdom. Being connected to the “true vine” here on earth means gaining access to our inheritance today. That is good news!

QUESTIONS STUDENTS MIGHT ASK

What does it mean to be “holy” and why is that so important?

- **Leviticus 10:10-11; Ephesians 4:20-24; Romans 12:1**
 - The purpose of the law was to draw a clear line between the common and the uncommon -between what is unclean and what is clean. Paul encourages us to put on the new self, which includes new desires—desires that reveal that we are made in God’s likeness and made right with God. The new self walks in step with the spirit and, as a result, lives a holy and acceptable life for God, fully clothed in joy and satisfaction that is eternal.



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Is Satan really a thief? What does he want to steal from me?

- John 10:10

- What is worth stealing must have value; what can be killed must first have life; what can be destroyed must once have been whole. In this case, what the enemy wants to steal, kill, and destroy is the intimacy and inheritance promised to those who walk with Jesus. In John 10:10, Satan's name reveals a part of his character— thief. As believers, it is imperative that we walk with awareness of this, remembering Jesus promises us an abundant life here on earth. The abundant life offered to believers refers to a life filled with joy, peace, and strength that comes from walking in obedience with His Spirit.

How can I live a life that is pure and obedient to God?

- Psalm 119:9-16

- A lifestyle that is pure, good, and whole is what God desires for each of His children. In order for us to have this life, we must read His Word and hide it in our heart. When we cherish God's Word, we access the strength that is needed for us to walk by His spirit rather than our flesh. The enemy seeks to keep us broken, confused, and discouraged, but God's Word speaks life into our brokenness and replaces our fears with confidence.

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DAY 3: MORNING LIFE GROUP

Main Point:

Point: In this world you will find wheat and weed, good and evil. In the end, God will separate the two.

LIFE GROUP OVERVIEW

SERVICE REFLECTION

Question 1

What stood out to you most from the service?

Question 2

If you could ask God one question about the service, what would it be?

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Focus Passage: Matthew 25:31-46

Question 1

How can you be sure that Jesus's work on the cross gives you eternal life?

Question 2

What fruit in your life shows that you know Jesus and have a relationship with Him?

Question 3

Who is God calling you to have an open heart and watchful eyes to serve in your community?

PRAY & CLOSE



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DAY 3: MORNING LIFE GROUP HELPFUL LEADER RESOURCES

Hey Life Group Leaders! Welcome to Day 3 of camp—halfway through already? We pray that you are making great connections with your students, feeling spiritually refreshed, and are having tons of fun! This morning’s main point focuses on the reality that in this world we will encounter both wheat and weeds—good and evil growing side by side. Scripture tells us that God allows both to exist together for a time, even when it feels confusing or unfair. But in the end, God Himself will make the final separation—revealing what is true and good.

Through this session, we pray that your students will be able to understand that we are called to remain rooted in Him. **His character proves that He is trustworthy, sees all things clearly, and will bring justice in His perfect timing.**

OPTIONAL ICEBREAKER: THE CATEGORY CLAP

Direct the group to stand in a circle. Choose a category, such as animals, fruits, sports, or movie characters. Instruct one student to start by saying an item from the category while clapping once. Then the next person must immediately say a *different* item from the same category and clap once as well. The game continues around the circle, with each person adding a new item without repeating any previous answers. If someone hesitates too long, repeats an item, or can’t think of one, that person steps out or starts a new round with a fresh category!

For example, if the chosen category is animals, the first student might say, “elephant” with a clap. The next student could say, “giraffe,” the next, “lion,” and so on. The challenge is to keep thinking quickly while keeping the rhythm!

Focus Passage: Matthew 25:31-46

CONTEXT

Matthew 25:31-46 shows Jesus explaining how, at the end of the age, He will separate all people like a shepherd separates sheep from goats. This passage refers to Christ’s final harvest as opposed to our own ministry performance. Knowing that Jesus is the Son of Man—the One who paid our debt, conquered death, and defeated the grave. He alone holds all authority to serve as the final judge. And because He is the judge, He also reveals the outward evidence of those who truly belong to Him. For students, this means that following Jesus is not only about what they say or what they know,



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but rather focuses on the way they live their daily lives. This passage invites students to live with an awareness that their faith speaks for itself through showing genuine compassion, humility, and service toward those around them.

MAIN POINT: NOTES

This passage teaches us that faith with no evidence is not real faith. When Jesus spoke about the future, He painted a picture that brings hope and clarity for what we can expect upon His return. He described the angels that would be with Him, the glorious throne around Him, and the people that would be gathered before Him. In addition to this rich imagery, Jesus explains what will take place—the separation of the sheep and the goats, the good from the bad.

As Jesus spoke about His second coming, He used language that was familiar with His audience. Jesus intentionally chose the “shepherd” imagery, knowing that the people would relate to what He was saying. A shepherd does not randomly separate the animals in his flock. He knows them. He sees distinctions that others might easily look past. For some, the word *separation* might initially evoke fear rather than joy. But the truth is that because of the finished work of Jesus on the cross, we can rejoice. Jesus’s obedience to the Father, His sacrifice, and His love for mankind makes this separation both possible and worth celebrating. So as we reflect on this passage, we can rest assured that our inheritance is eternal life—complete separation from sin and suffering, and restored intimacy with our Creator and King.

The day Jesus described in this passage gives us hope for the future and should cause us to reflect on what that means for our life today. So the question is: “How does this influence my time on earth?” Jesus addressed this question directly, spoke to the posture of our hearts, and provided direction on how we are to live. Those who have a relationship with Jesus *are the ones who can be found quietly caring for the hungry, the lonely, the ignored, and the hurting*. As Jesus said in Matthew 25:40, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” As we long for Christ’s return, this is how we are to live in the waiting—with open hearts and watchful eyes looking to serve, care, and love the people around us.

QUESTIONS STUDENTS MIGHT ASK

How can I be sure that I will be separated as a “sheep” when Jesus returns?



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Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 1:13-14

- From the very beginning, God's intention was for us to exist in a deep and intimate relationship with Him. The moment sin entered the world, the separation between God and humanity was formed. Jesus' willingness to pay our debt and be raised from the dead is what makes it possible for us to be a new creation. When we put our faith in Him, we are in right standing with God. Grace was poured out for us, granting us access to eternal life by placing our faith and trust in Jesus. Jesus Himself covers, restores, and seals us with the presence of the Holy Spirit, giving us confidence in knowing where we stand with Him.

When can I expect Christ to return?

Matthew 24:36-44; John 14:2-3

- Here we see how Jesus addressed the question of when He will return. In His response, He showed that no one can provide a definite answer. This knowledge is reserved only for the Father. Although we are not told the exact time of His second coming, we do know that He will return and take us to the place He has prepared for us.

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DAY 3: EVENING LIFE GROUP

Main Point:

To bear fruit, we need a relationship with Christ, who guides our growth and pruning.

LIFE GROUP OVERVIEW

SERVICE REFLECTION

Question 1

What stood out to you most from the service?

Question 2

If you could ask God one question about the service, what would it be?

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Focus Passage: Matthew 7:13-20

Question 1

What might be keeping you from entering the narrow gate?

Question 2

What does walking on the narrow road look like in your daily life?

Question 3

What would the people in your life say the fruit of your life reflects?

PRAY & CLOSE



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DAY 3: EVENING LIFE GROUP HELPFUL LEADER RESOURCES

Hey Life Group Leaders! You are absolutely crushing it! At this point, you *may* still feel super energized or you might be experiencing the effects of sleep deprivation. Either way, you are present and equipped to invest in the next generation. By now, your students have more than likely asked several questions, either internally or aloud in their group. This is a GOOD thing!

We pray your students *keep* asking questions and wrestling to understand things that the Lord has laid on their hearts. So take a deep breath and invite the Lord back into your experience at camp. He is sure to meet you right where you are. As always, feel free to use the icebreaker below with your students before diving into the focus passage!

OPTIONAL ICEBREAKER: THE SILENT LINE UP

Challenge the group to line up in a specific order (by birthday, height, or another fun category) *without* talking at all. Students must rely entirely on gestures, facial expressions, and other nonverbal cues to figure out where they belong in the line. Feel free to set a countdown to help motivate the group to finish before the time is up. This encourages teamwork and creativity as students work together to silently communicate and complete the task at hand. For example, the group might line up by birthday month, with students holding up fingers to indicate their month and using gestures to help communicate their position in the line.

Focus Passage: Matthew 7:13-20

CONTEXT

Matthew 7:13-20 paints a unique image for what walking with Jesus on earth will be like. He speaks directly to His disciples and to the crowd at large, instructing them which path to choose and what to expect along the way. Jesus was fully aware of all the hardship, suffering, and temptation of the world. His message acted as both a warning—to remain alert to those who aimed to deceive and harm—and a reminder—of the way to experience abundant life both now and forever. Jesus' teaching emphasized that walking with Him requires intentionality and the ability to choose the narrow gate. Jesus tells us the choice to travel this difficult road is found by just a few. While hardship and difficulties will not be scarce, Jesus promises life to those who persist.



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MAIN POINT: NOTES

The main idea of Matthew 7:13-20 highlights the difference between two ways of living, clearly producing two different outcomes. When Jesus spoke to the disciples about the two ways to live, He first addressed the gate of entrance (the narrow gate). Why did He start this teaching by mentioning the narrow gate before the difficult road as a whole? It is important to note that when He spoke to the disciples, He wasn't asking them to press on along the narrow way and wait for their reward in heaven. He was commanding them to choose the narrow gate and the difficult road. While the road is hard and full of uncertainty, Jesus invites us down the road that leads to life. When we are able to view life through this lens, we are able to face suffering with joy and hope in our hearts.

Our ability to enter the narrow gate is made possible by having a relationship with Jesus. When Jesus paid the price for our redemption, He gave us access to enter the narrow gate. So once we have entered in and are on the right path, what happens next? Jesus provided clarity as He explained what to expect along the way. He told the disciples that the road is difficult and few people find it, yet it ultimately leads to life. We can cling to this promise when we find ourselves stumbling through hard seasons.

As the text continues, Jesus addresses the heart behind producing good fruit. He gives a warning to the disciples as He tells them to be on guard against those dressed in sheep's clothing. Jesus knows that we will encounter stumbling blocks on the difficult road. But ultimately, the fruit of our lives reflects the path we have chosen to follow. Knowing this, our response to being pruned by God should be one of thankfulness. He doesn't leave us how He found us or allow us to stay the same. He tends to our heart and cuts back the overgrown areas that hinder us from fully experiencing His presence and goodness in our lives. In every season, He prepares and sustains us to continue our journey along the difficult road. So let's respond with gratitude and a willingness to follow His lead, no matter what.

QUESTIONS STUDENTS MIGHT ASK

What happens if I slip while walking the difficult road?

Psalms 121:1-4

- Psalm 121 is an anchor for our soul to cling to when the challenges of walking the difficult road feel like more than we are able to carry. This Psalm helps believers to remember who God is by calling them to look up. God's goodness, power, and ability to serve as our provider and protector comes from His



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authority in heaven and over the earth. The call for us to look to the mountains reminds us that the Creator of such majesty is present during our time of need. He will not allow our feet to slip, even when we find ourselves walking in rocky and unfamiliar places.

What is the “good fruit” Jesus is referring to?

Galatians 5:22-23a

- When we choose to walk with Jesus and follow His lead, the fruit of His Spirit is a guarantee. We are unable to produce this fruit on our own, but when we renew our minds and allow space for God to transform our hearts, He will produce good fruit. As His Spirit overflows in our lives, we are transformed, reflecting His kingdom and fulfilling His commands on earth.

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DAY 4: MORNING LIFE GROUP

Main Point:

Just as the woman celebrates after finding the lost coin, God and His angels celebrate when a sinner repents and turns back to God.

LIFE GROUP OVERVIEW

SERVICE REFLECTION

Question 1

What stood out to you most from the service?

Question 2

If you could ask God one question about the service, what would it be?

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Focus Passage: Luke 3:12-13; Luke 19:1-10

Question 1

What could be holding you back from answering Jesus when He calls your name?

Question 2

What sin in your life is causing your heart to be hardened rather than softened by the love of Christ?

Question 3

Is there anything the Lord is asking you to repent of, or turn from disobeying God to obeying Him, in order to fully walk in step with Him?

PRAY & CLOSE

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HELPFUL LEADER RESOURCES

Life Group Leaders, you have officially made it to the final *full* day of camp! Your participation—on the rec field or mission site, during worship, leading LG sessions, and everything in between—has not gone unnoticed. Your presence is a vital part of each student's camp experience. We are so grateful that you're here and ready to finish strong. So grab another cup of coffee and get ready to dive into another Life Group session. You know the drill—feel free to review the icebreaker below before reading the focus passages with your students!

OPTIONAL ICEBREAKER: INSIDE OUT—EMOJI EDITION

Ask each student to describe themselves using three different emojis. They can say them out loud, draw them on a piece of paper or dry erase board or show the actual emoji (if available). Then allow students to briefly explain why they chose those certain emojis to explain their personalities. For example, a student might choose 🐶, 🎨, and 🍕 to show that they are loyal, creative, and love pizza!

Focus Passages: Luke 3:12-13; Luke 19:1-10

CONTEXT

When our hearts are broken and full of godly grief over our sin, there is space for true repentance to take root in our lives. As mentioned in a previous session, having an understanding of God's mercy is an *essential* part of experiencing and practicing true repentance. When our inner life is made right, our outer response naturally shifts to align with the heart of God. In Luke 19:1-10, we'll take a closer look at someone whose lifestyle showed little understanding of mercy, repentance, or salvation until he met Jesus face to face. This man's name was Zacchaeus, one of Jericho's tax collectors. It's important to note that Zacchaeus was not just any tax collector, but he was the chief tax collector. It is widely accepted that the higher the taxes were in the city, the more Zacchaeus could profit. Luke 3:12-13 records tax collectors approaching Jesus to ask what they should do to be made right with God. His response was for them to take only what they were permitted to collect, not anything beyond. It wasn't until Zacchaeus saw Jesus that his life was changed. Even though Zacchaeus' life was initially marked by worldly riches, Jesus rejoiced over his heart, stating that salvation had come to Zacchaeus' house..

MAIN POINT: NOTES

Before Zacchaeus had an encounter with Jesus, his life was very different. As the chief tax collector, he set the standards and practices for all the other tax collectors in



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the city. The city's financial well-being was essentially under Zacchaeus' control. The money he acquired through the work of those under him increased over time, allowing him to experience a life of manmade beauty and luxury. Recognizing the kind of life Zacchaeus lived helps us understand why the people of the city complained when Jesus chose to stay in his home. It's clear that Zacchaeus was no fan favorite of the people. In fact, he was probably the last person anyone expected Jesus to stay with at his house.

The turning point of Zacchaeus' story was first marked by his curiosity and by Jesus' pursuit. Every branch that Zacchaeus climbed was driven by his curiosity to see who Jesus was. He needed to see the man who had been known to heal the sick, teach large crowds, and stir enthusiasm among the people of the city. Just when it seemed that Jesus was going to pass by, He called Zacchaeus to come down, demonstrating Jesus' intentional pursuit of redemption. Thousands of people were in the city of Jericho at the time, yet Jesus stopped in His tracks to call the one—Zacchaeus. The moment that Zacchaeus came down from the tree and met the healer, his life was finally made whole. The joy of his salvation caused him to repay all that he owed and exercise great generosity to the people around him.

Jesus' response to Zacchaeus should fill our hearts with joy today! There is a clear connection between Zacchaeus' response to Jesus and Jesus' declaration of true salvation. It's important to note that Jesus' first step toward Zacchaeus was done before he had given one cent back to those that he owed. Jesus extended mercy to Zacchaeus before he demonstrated his commitment to Jesus. Jesus was neither swayed by the people's complaints or constrained by the social norms, but instead was moved by His desire to see the salvation of Zacchaeus.

QUESTIONS STUDENTS MIGHT ASK

Does Jesus really desire to call my name?

Isaiah 43:1; John 10:1-3

- God's love for us is not activated when we choose to repent of our sin and strive to complete good works. His love for us has been present before the beginning of time, serving as the driving force behind our unique personalities. Isaiah 43:1 shows us that God has redeemed us and knows us intimately—He calls us by name and claims us as His own. This isn't a distant or generic call, but instead, it's a personal and intentional call, rooted in His love for us. John 10:11 describes Jesus as the Good Shepherd who calls His sheep by name, and they respond to His voice. These verses show that Jesus' desire to call by name is not merely symbolic; it reflects His personal



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relationship with each of us. He seeks us individually and knows us deeply. When we hear and respond to His voice calling our name, we experience His care, redemption, and presence in our lives.

What if giving up all that I have to follow Jesus feels costly?

Mark 10:28-30; 1 Peter 5:6-7

- As Jesus lived and taught large crowds, He never once said that following Him would be easy. In fact, He said that walking with Him would be costly—but what does this actually mean for us today? It means that following Jesus is more than belief, it's a lifestyle practiced by choosing daily surrender. If we're honest, the word *surrender* can oftentimes make us uncomfortable, maybe even nervous. As we walk closer with Jesus, the more we discover that surrender is where we are safest. Jesus shows us that His willingness to provide flows from His precious care of His children. His words reveal that He is trustworthy in all circumstances and that each moment of our surrender will never be wasted.

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DAY 4: EVENING LIFE GROUP

Main Point:

We are called to be workers in God's harvest, sharing the good news of Jesus.

LIFE GROUP OVERVIEW

SERVICE REFLECTION

Question 1

What stood out to you most from the service?

Question 2

If you could ask God one question about the service, what would it be?

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Focus Passage: Acts 6:1-7; Acts 8:26-38

Question 1

In what area of your life is God inviting you to walk by His Spirit rather than the world around you?

Question 2

What about your daily life shows that you're prepared to follow and serve God in whatever He asks?

Question 3

Who or what might God be inviting you to invest in, serve, or pray for?

PRAY & CLOSE



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DAY 4: EVENING LIFE GROUP HELPFUL LEADER RESOURCES

Life Group Leaders, you've made it through the last *full* day of camp and are approaching your final Life Group session of the week! By now, you and your students have read numerous passages of Scripture together and have likely discussed a wide variety of questions. Your efforts to help provide a space for students to thoughtfully process each truth they've heard this week are not in vain. We believe that your willingness to be present, ask and answer questions, exercise patience, and even lose a couple (or several) hours of sleep will impact the students you've been entrusted to lead. Thank you for all of the ways you've said yes to your students this week. We pray that you leave this week of camp deeply encouraged and excited to continue investing in the lives of the next generation.

During this final Life Group session, we want to help students look forward, fully convinced that God desires to use each of them in very specific ways. We pray they will leave camp knowing that the Lord has purposefully positioned them in their specific community, school, and local church to minister to those within their sphere of influence. Before diving in, feel free to take a look at the final icebreaker below!

OPTIONAL ICEBREAKER: MIME TIME!

Form the Life Group into two even teams. Invite one person from each team to come up and silently act out a word, phrase, or category (like movies, sports, or other random activities) for the team to guess. Explain that volunteers will have one minute to get their teams to shout out the correct answer. No talking, sounds, or pointing at objects! If the team guesses correctly within the time limit, they earn a point. Then it's the next team's turn. Keep rotating so everyone gets a chance to act and guess. The team with the most points at the end wins!

Focus Passages: Acts 6:1-7; Acts 8:26-38

CONTEXT

In Acts 6, seven men filled with faith, wisdom, and discernment were chosen to serve their community by ensuring that each person was given the proper amount of food and other needed resources. In Acts 8, Phillip, one of the seven, was called by God to leave his ministry in Samaria to go to the desert. Through these verses, Philip demonstrates what a heart fully yielded to God looks like. His willingness to listen, obey, and follow the Lord's instruction leads directly to another person's breakthrough and encounter with Jesus. Before Philip was sent by the Lord to meet



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the *eunuch* (a trusted official of the royal court), Philip was faithfully serving the people of his city. From man's perspective, it made no logical sense for Philip to leave where he was planted—in career, community, and commitment. It was Phillip's willingness to walk by the Spirit, rather than human understanding, that allowed the man in the desert to hear, understand, and receive the good news of Christ. Following Jesus means we have to walk the difficult road, patiently waiting for next steps, or maybe even taking a step backward rather than forward.

We may find ourselves in one of these spaces—willing to say yes, but unsure of how to move forward in faith. Notice through Phillip's example of taking God at His Word and walking in obedience, Jesus is always faithful to those He calls. Those who are in Christ Jesus can wait patiently, walk by faith, and labor with confidence knowing that the harvest has already begun.

MAIN POINT: NOTES

Throughout today, your students have been reminded that the harvest is plentiful—many hearts are ready to receive the hope of Jesus and are waiting for someone to reach out, ministering to them in both physical and spiritual ways. So how does this connect to Philip and his yes to Jesus? Truthfully, being used by God isn't always easy—it takes steadfastness, sacrifice, and patience. The students in your Life Group might feel like their current season of life is requiring them to show one (or all) of these characteristics. *Steadfastness* means to be firmly fixed in place. In this context, we have to be firmly fixed on Jesus. *Sacrifice* might look like giving their time, energy, or comfort for someone else. And *patience* is learning to wait and listen for what God is asking them to do next.

As previously mentioned, Phillip's yes to the Lord's calling was one of unexpected events as he was invited to speak to the eunuch. Philip's journey of obedience was modeled by simply taking the next step right in front of him. There was no "master plan" or manipulation involved to produce the "most or best" of anything around him to find favor with God. The Lord called Philip when he was already ministering to the people around him, faithfully using his skill set and talents to serve the people in his community. Phillip's identity in Christ and confidence in His character is what qualified him to be a carrier of the good news of Jesus. Remind your students that being "sent" can resemble taking small steps toward someone to show them the love of Jesus by inviting them into their everyday lives. Phillip loved his neighbor by taking time to read God's Word with him. Being present demonstrated trust in God by walking in obedience. Philip's life portrayed his adoration of Jesus as Philip chose to obey God's Word rather than his words. God doesn't need our five-star



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performance to accomplish His will, but instead invites us to intentionally share His love with others from the overflow of our hearts. For some students, participating in the harvest might mean consistently showing up for the people around them. For others, it may require a new level of sacrifice. Phillip's journey began in the place of familiarity, but then he was sent to the desert to minister to a man with whom he had no former connection. Stepping into the harvest isn't always easy. It might look like leaving what's familiar and moving to a new place, giving up friendships, or even choosing a different seat in the cafeteria to show kindness to someone in need. As Phillip was instructed to leave his home, God's nearness was evident in his life. God's voice dictated when and where Philip should move next. We pray that the students in your Life Group would remember this: no matter the calling or level of sacrifice, God's presence is always close to those walking with Him. His Word will speak truth into our circumstances and offer direction, peace, and courage as we step out in faith.

QUESTIONS STUDENTS MIGHT ASK

Does God really want to use me?

- Ephesians 2:10; Psalm 139:13-16

- Psalm 139 tells us that before our days on earth began, our days were formed for us. There is no lack of intention shown from the Father as He intricately knit us in our mothers womb. Part of that weaving included our personality, passions, and the ability to create. When asking the question, "Does God really want to use me?" we must remind ourselves that we were created with depth and meaning that this world cannot add to or take away from. Even more, we were created in Christ Jesus for the purpose of good works. Every good work that we are able to do has already been accomplished by Jesus. Our role is simply to carry that out.

How am I able to keep working when it is hard?

- 1 Corinthians 15:58; Psalm 34:5

- Demonstrating consistency in loving others is not something we can accomplish on our own. The world is broken and filled with broken people. So how do we persist? How are we able to cultivate joy as we face hardships? We are able to serve, pursue, and forgive the people around us only so much before we run out of strength. These verses encourage and confirm for believers that no matter the experience or outcome, our efforts in doing good will never be in vain. We have the ability to remain steadfast while doing things that might seem impossible. As believers, we have a strength that comes from God. This strength is able to uphold us when the enemy strikes and lead us to walk in every good work that He sets before us.