

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"THIS IS THE LIFE" JANUARY 15 & 16

SERIES OVERVIEW:

What is the LIFE that God is calling us to? What does it really look like to FOLLOW? It is an invitation to be and a challenge to be and do. Jesus invited people like us to be with him, be embraced by him and find LIFE in him. Jesus also challenged people like us to actually live the LIFE, being shaped into his image, and to do what disciples do, specifically, to make other disciples. This is real LIFE! Wherever you find yourself on this journey of The [Disciple] LIFE, you're invited to lean into this all-encompassing everyday LIFE; discovering your identity in Jesus, becoming more like him, and helping others do the same.

*Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc.
Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.*

1

OPENING PRAYER and SCRIPTURE:

About 3 minutes

The leader opens in prayer. Ask 4 volunteers to read a Scripture passage aloud as we focus on the topic of LIFE: John 17:3, John 14:6, John 1:4, John 10:10.

2

BIG IDEA:

About 1 minute to read

What is the LIFE that Jesus is calling us to? What does that actually look like? A LIFE of purpose, significance, impact, and legacy! A LIFE that looks, loves, and lives more and more like Jesus. A life of investing in others; helping them learn to live this LIFE. Kingdom LIFE or [Disciple] LIFE redefines what the culture tells us is "the good life". It's better than that! It's purpose is greater. It may be harder. It's the way of Jesus, built on his truth and modeled after his LIFE.

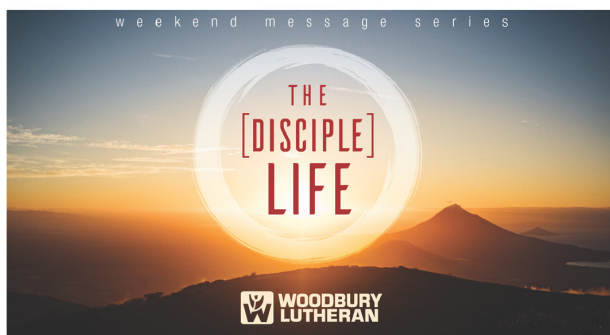
3

INTRO QUESTIONS:

About 8 minutes

How would our culture define "the good life"?

What do you really want from your life?



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Jesus told [Thomas], "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me". - John 14:6 NLT

Reflect

Read the full passage in your Bible - John 14: 1-14.

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit highlighting from the scripture reading?

What might be God's invitation to you in this?

What might be God's challenge to you in this?

How might God be calling you to respond?
Be curious...and then do it.

4

SCRIPTURE READING + GROUP DISCUSSION

About 50 minutes

Sometimes we know the truth of Jesus, but don't focus on the way and the life He has for us. What might be different if everyday you leaned into His ways and the life He has for you?

See Phillip's comment. The disciples *had* seen God in the flesh! Jesus was a living example (fully God and fully human) walking with them in everyday life. Who is a living example (Jesus with skin on) for you? In what ways is their everyday life a light to others?

Re-read John 14:12. Does it seem possible for you to do the same things as Jesus did? Why or why not? What about even greater things? (See v 13-14 for help)

Read Deuteronomy 30:11-20. Why do you think God needed to tell the Israelites to choose life? (v19) Think of a challenging situation in your life right now. What would it look like to "choose life"? Is that easier or more difficult for you and why?



DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?


What might God be inviting you to do?

5 LIVE IT OUT:

About 10 minutes if you choose to do this in group time or 1 minute to read and give as "homework"

Extra credit this week to "Take It Deeper": a word search! Search the word, "life" on BibleGateway.com. Read some of the New Testament Scripture references that include the word life. What connections do you see in these passages between God and life? What passage or verse speaks to you about true life found in Christ and why? Write this verse on a notecard and read it as you pray the prayer prompt below each day.

TAKE IT DEEPER



Live It Out

START your "everyday" this week by praying the prayer of surrender (below). NOW set your heart on Jesus as your LIFE, welcoming him, worshiping him, and following him in every part of your life.

Pray

Ask God to show you afresh the LIFE that he's calling you to.

Thank him for sending Jesus to reveal himself as the way, the truth, and the LIFE.

Prayer of surrender... "Lord, I yield to your invitation to center my entire life on you, on the LIFE that you're calling me to. I surrender to the work of your Spirit in me."

6

CLOSING GROUP PRAYER:

About 4 minutes

Read the prayer section on the card aloud, and take a moment for each person to reflect on the prayer prompt personally.

The leader or volunteer may read aloud the prayer below, leaving time for each person to fill in the blank with one area of life where they especially would like to experience Jesus. (Group members may choose from the list of: relationships, workplace, home, hobby, everyday tasks...or they can insert a different area of life they wish to experience more of Jesus.)

"Dear Jesus, we desire to live everyday with Your truth, Your ways, and Your life. To not only have life, but to have it to the full! Come with us into our relationships, our workplaces, our homes, our hobbies, and even our mundane everyday tasks.

We specifically ask for Your presence and Your ways in this area of our life _____. (Leave time for group members to fill in the blank)

We yield to Your invitation to center our entire life on You and surrender to the work of Your Spirit in us. Amen."