

Personal Liturgy

Week 15: A Blueprint for Biblical Encouragement

"I would go to the deeps a hundred times to cheer a downcast spirit. It is good for me to have been afflicted, that I might know how to speak a word in season to one that is weary."

- Charles Spurgeon

"If I can put one touch of rosy sunset into the life of any man or woman, I shall feel that I have worked with God."

- G.K. Chesterton

Catch Up On Life:

This is when we update each other on the day in and day out happenings of our lives. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we're praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

- Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus at work in the last week (growing you or working in others that God's put around you)?
- What (if any) life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)?

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives, and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

Review the Mission:

Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us as ambassadors of reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

1. People:

- Reactive - Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?
- Proactive - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (Neighborhood, STC partner or specific demographic in Columbia)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve and build relationships with this group?

2. Plan:

- Are there any rhythms already planned, or an extra rhythm we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?

Pray: Prayer is the fuel of God's mission. Let's pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.

Sermon Discussion:

God uses His Word to help us know Him, to equip us, to show us our sin, and to strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a LifeGroup throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25)

Primary Passages: Hebrews 10:23-25, Hebrews 3:11-12

Read and Recap: Have someone read Hebrews 3:11-12 and Hebrews 10:23-25 and recap the highlights from this week's sermon.

- How is biblical encouragement and exhortation different than complimenting someone?

In the sermon, we were given three ways to offer biblical encouragement to someone: encouraging them in **how God has used them**, encouraging them in **how you see God at work in them**, and encouraging them in **what God has promised them**.

- What makes it challenging or difficult for you to practice biblical encouragement for someone else in your life?

Personal Liturgy Challenges:

The Personal Liturgy challenge for this week is to encourage someone in a God-centered way.

- Have you had the opportunity to do so this week? How did encouraging someone else in this way help fight self-absorption?

Take 5-10 minutes to consider how you might encourage someone in your group to stir them towards love and good deeds.

Take 40 minutes as a LifeGroup to go around the group and exhort and encourage one another in a biblical and God-centered way.

- How have you seen God use people in your LifeGroup?
- How have you seen God work in the lives of people in your LifeGroup as He's made them more like Jesus?
- How does someone in your LifeGroup need to be reminded about what God has promised them?

Pray that your LifeGroup would continue to seek out opportunities to encourage one another in a biblical and God-centered way as we press into being a Jesus-centered family on mission.

Pray that the Spirit would reveal in you any tendencies of self-absorption that would rob you of the chance to see the beauty of what God is doing in the people around you.

Engage the Heart:

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)

- What sinful thoughts, actions, or words from the past week do you need to confess? Specifically, has God convicted you regarding cynicism through the sermon?
- How does the gospel specifically address and free you up in this area? (Rest of LG speak into their lives: How does the gospel address and free him/her up?)
- What steps of repentance do you need to take? How can we help you walk in repentance?

Pray: James tells us that a community that regularly confesses sin and prays for each other will see a lot of healing. Confess your sins in prayer and pray for each other.