

LIFE GROUP CURRICULUM 2026

OCTOBER • NOVEMBER • DECEMBER

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WORSHIP

Romans 12:1

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

[WORSHIP]

WEEK 1
October 4-10

Focus: *Mercy*

Worship begins and ends with an appreciation of God's mercy

Group Flow:

Total Time: 1 hr - 1 hr 30 min
Eat/Mingle: Optional, based on your group's structure (20-30 min)

Warm-Up Questions: (10-15min)	What song, Scripture, or personal memory most quickly reminds you of God's grace?
Go Deeper (5-10 min)	Why do you think Paul points us toward God's mercy before calling us to offer our lives in worship?
Scripture Prep (2 min)	Group/discussion leader gives a brief context for the passage
Scripture Reading (2 min)	Choose someone in the group to read the scripture aloud
Open Scripture Discussion (5 min)	Ask your group members if they have any immediate thoughts on the passage. Then, consider reading several of the following passages and ask for reactions to similarities or differences amongst the scriptures. Lamentations 3:22-23; Psalm 100:4-5; Psalm 138:2; Jeremiah 20:13

[WORSHIP]

WEEK 1
October 4-10

Written Devotional:

"Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see." Few songs capture the wonder of God's mercy quite like Amazing Grace. These familiar words remind us of a truth we can easily forget: everything we have in Christ is a gift we did not earn. Mercy is God's unmerited kindness and goodness toward us. We were lost, separated from God by our sin, and unable to save ourselves. Yet, because of His great love and mercy, Jesus came. He lived the life we could not live, died the death we deserved, and rose again in victory. And His death and resurrection didn't just free us from something. They freed us for something. We have been redeemed to glorify God. Worship, then, begins with remembering. We remember who we were and what Christ has done. We remember that we were lost, and He found us. We were blind, and He opened our eyes. We were guilty, and He showed us mercy. And our response is worship. Not just through the songs we sing on Sunday, but through lives surrendered to the One who died and rose again for us. Every act of obedience, every moment of gratitude, every sacrifice, and every song can become an offering of worship. Worship begins and ends with an appreciation of God's mercy. The more we remember the depth of His mercy toward us, the more naturally our hearts respond with gratitude, surrender, and praise. Amazing grace. Amazing mercy. And a response worthy of all of our worship - our whole lives.

Discussion Questions (15-20 min)

- What is your own "I once was...but now..." story? How has God's mercy changed you?
- How does remembering God's mercy affect your attitude, priorities, and choices beyond Sunday morning?

Application

Set aside time this week to identify three specific ways God has shown you mercy. Thank Him for each one and respond with one intentional act of worship or obedience.

Closing Prayer (1-10min)

Ask someone to close in prayer, or share prayer requests and pray together.

[WORSHIP]

WEEK 2
October 11-17

Focus: *Sacrifice*

Worship requires giving of ourselves to God

Group Flow:

Total Time: 1 hr - 1 hr 30 min
Eat/Mingle: Optional, based on your group's structure (20-30 min)

Warm-Up Questions: (10-15min)	Have you ever entrusted something valuable to another person's care? What made that easy or difficult?
Go Deeper (5-10 min)	What is the difference between occasionally doing something for God and offering your whole life to God?
Scripture Prep (2 min)	Group/discussion leader gives a brief context for the passage
Scripture Reading (2 min)	Choose someone in the group to read the scripture aloud
Open Scripture Discussion (5 min)	Ask your group members if they have any immediate thoughts on the passage. Then, consider reading several of the following passages and ask for reactions to similarities or differences amongst the scriptures. Hebrews 13:15-16; Psalm 50:23; 1 Peter 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

[WORSHIP]

WEEK 2
October 11-17

Written Devotional:

As a little girl, I spent countless summer days and weekends sitting beside my grandfather in his shop, watching him make fiddles. He had taught himself how to build them by studying his father's own instrument—the one thing he had left from his dad, who had died when my grandfather was only sixteen. With patience and practiced hands, he would carve the ribs of the fiddle with a hoof knife. He would shape the wooden plates and carefully cut the f-holes. He painstakingly created the channel for the purfling, and then my small fingers would help press it into place. Once the plates and ribs had been assembled with the neck, my grandfather would mix his own stains, searching for just the right burgundy or blonde finish. Then we would string the fiddle up on a line tied up outside to dry in the sunlight. From beginning to end, the birth of a fiddle takes approximately 180 hours. But when it was finished, all those hours of carving, shaping, sanding, staining, waiting, and working were transformed into something that could make beautiful music. In Romans 12:1, Paul doesn't simply tell us to do something for God. He tells us to offer ourselves to God. Worship is more than a song we sing on Sunday morning. Worship is what happens when we place our entire lives in God's hands. Our time is worship. Our work is worship. Our gifts are worship. Our relationships, our homes, our suffering, our ordinary routines, and even the things no one else sees can become offerings to God. We don't offer ourselves because we are trying to earn God's love. We offer ourselves because we have already received His mercy. Just as my grandfather patiently took pieces of wood and shaped them into an instrument, God patiently works in us. He carves away what doesn't belong. He shapes our hearts. He refines us through seasons of waiting and difficulty. He is making something of our lives that can bring glory to Him. And perhaps that is why "Warfaring Stranger" remains my favorite song from childhood. There is something solemn and hauntingly beautiful about its melody—a reminder that this world is not our final home and that our hope rests in Christ. The fiddle had to be surrendered to the hands of the craftsman before it could make music. And so do we.

Discussion Questions (15-20 min)

- What part of your life are you finding difficult to place in God's hands right now? What makes surrender difficult?
- Where do you see God shaping or refining you through work, waiting, or difficulty in this season?

Application

Choose one ordinary area of life—your work, relationships, time, gifts, or routines—and intentionally offer it to God each morning this week as an act of worship.

Closing Prayer (1-10min)

Ask someone to close in prayer, or share prayer requests and pray together.

[WORSHIP]

WEEK 3
October 18-24

Focus: *Holy*

Worship is heart-action which is "set apart" for God's Glory

Group Flow:

Total Time: 1 hr - 1 hr 30 min
Eat/Mingle: Optional, based on your group's structure (20-30 min)

Warm-Up Questions: (10-15min)	Do you own anything that you reserve for one special purpose or occasion? What makes it different from the things you use every day?
Go Deeper (5-10 min)	If holiness means being “set apart” for God’s purposes, what does it mean for our worship—and our lives—to be holy?
Scripture Prep (2 min)	Group/discussion leader gives a brief context for the passage
Scripture Reading (2 min)	Choose someone in the group to read the scripture aloud
Open Scripture Discussion (5 min)	Ask your group members if they have any immediate thoughts on the passage. Then, consider reading several of the following passages and ask for reactions to similarities or differences amongst the scriptures. 1 Peter 2:9; Psalm 50:23; Revelation 4:8; Revelation 15:4

[WORSHIP]

WEEK 3
October 18-24

Written Devotional:

"Many Spirit-filled authors have exhausted the thesaurus in order to describe God with the glory He deserves. His perfect holiness, by definition, assures us that our words can't contain Him. Isn't it a comfort to worship a God we cannot exaggerate?"—Francis Chan Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Romans 12:1) Worship is heart-action which is "set apart" for God's Glory. Holy tongs?! Years ago, I was reading through the furnishing of the Tabernacle in the desert and God's Temple in Jerusalem and saw among the items listed, "tongs." They were implements used both for the Altar of Incense inside the Holy Place and the Altar just outside the Tabernacle and Temple where the priests would offer sacrifices. It stumbled me because the priests were ordered to make every square inch of the Tabernacle and Temple "holy" along with every implement or tool used therein, even tongs! I knew that God had told us to be holy, even as He is holy, but what does that mean for me or my worship of God if even tongs can be holy. This started me down a road of trying to translate "holy" out of Christianese into something I could understand practically, so I looked up the meaning. The first one said to be holy is to be sanctified. "Ok," I thought, "but what does that mean?!" Next the dictionary said that to be sanctified was to be sacred. "Great," I thought, "but what does that mean?!" Then it finally clicked. The dictionary I was using finally said that to be sacred is to be "set apart for only one purpose," and I finally got it. Our lives and worship are holy when they are "set apart for only one purpose." Indeed, a essential element in true intimacy between any two beings is that they "set apart" or make holy their time together. God, an infinite and omnipresent and omniscient being has the ability to be completely focused on us individually and intimately. Our task then is to reciprocate and make our hearts holy, or "set them apart for a single purpose" being intimate with God through worship. And it is a completely different experience when we do.

Discussion Questions (15-20 min)

- What distractions, desires, or mixed motives most often interfere with setting apart your heart for worship?
- How does intentionally setting apart time for God deepen your intimacy with Him?

Application

Choose a specific time and place this week to remove distractions and focus entirely on God. Use that time to praise Him, listen to Him, and enjoy His presence.

Closing Prayer (1-10min)

Ask someone to close in prayer, or share prayer requests and pray together.

[WORSHIP]

WEEK 4
October 25-31

Focus: *Spirit*

Worship is a whole-life response to God that flows from a heart transformed by His Spirit.

Group Flow:

Total Time: 1 hr - 1 hr 30 min
Eat/Mingle: Optional, based on your group's structure (20-30 min)

Warm-Up Questions: (10-15min)	What habit or response has become almost automatic for you through repetition?
Go Deeper (5-10 min)	Why is surrendering our lives to God the reasonable and fitting response to His mercy?
Scripture Prep (2 min)	Group/discussion leader gives a brief context for the passage
Scripture Reading (2 min)	Choose someone in the group to read the scripture aloud
Open Scripture Discussion (5 min)	Ask your group members if they have any immediate thoughts on the passage. Then, consider reading several of the following passages and ask for reactions to similarities or differences amongst the scriptures. Romans 12:1-2; Luke 7:36-50; Hebrews 12:28-29; 1 Corinthians 10:31

[WORSHIP]

WEEK 4
October 25-31

Written Devotional:

Have you ever had a doctor tap your knee with that little rubber hammer? When the right spot is struck, your leg moves almost before you realize it. You don't have to stop and decide how to respond. The response comes naturally--a reflex.In Romans 12:1, Paul describes worship almost like a spiritual reflex: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship." Paul begins with God's mercy. Before he tells us what to do, he reminds us of what God has already done. For eleven chapters, Paul has described the mercy of God: while we were sinners, Christ died for us. When we could not save ourselves, God rescued us. He forgave our sin, adopted us into His family, gave us His Spirit, and promised that nothing could separate us from His love. Then comes the response: "Therefore…offer your bodies as a living sacrifice." Worship is the fitting response to the mercy of God. Some translations call this our "spiritual worship." Others call it our "reasonable service" or "true and proper worship." Each phrase helps us understand Paul's meaning. In light of everything God has done for us, surrendering ourselves to Him is the response that makes sense. Worship is not an attempt to earn God's mercy. It is our response to having already received it. That means worship is much larger than singing. Singing is worship, but worship does not end when the music stops. Paul tells us to offer our bodies—our whole selves—to God. Our time, work, relationships, ambitions, sexuality, money, decisions, suffering, and ordinary routines can all be placed on the altar. Worship, then, is a daily response of "God, because You have been merciful to me, my life belongs to You." In view of His mercy, surrender is not unreasonable. It is not excessive. It is the right spiritual response. The more clearly we see God's mercy, the more naturally our hearts respond with worship. Mercy strikes the heart, and surrender becomes the reflex. See His mercy. Surrender your life. Let God reshape you. This is our spiritual worship—not merely a song offered on Sunday, but a life offered to God every day.

Discussion Questions (15-20 min)

- What part of your life is easiest to separate from worship? What would it look like to place that part of your life on the altar before God?
- What helps you remember God's mercy and respond to Him with worship throughout an ordinary week?

Application

Choose one daily cue—waking up, beginning work, eating a meal, or going to bed —and use it to pray: "God, because You have been merciful to me, my life belongs to You."

Closing Prayer (1-10min)

Ask someone to close in prayer, or share prayer requests and pray together.

GENEROSITY

Matthew 6:19-21

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

[GENEROSITY]

WEEK 1
November 1-7

Focus: *Earth*

Generosity starts with having a healthy perspective on posessions

Group Flow:

Total Time: 1 hr - 1 hr 30 min
Eat/Mingle: Optional, based on your group's structure (20-30 min)

Warm-Up Questions: (10-15min)	What possession would be especially difficult for you to give away? Why?
Go Deeper (5-10 min)	How does viewing ourselves as stewards rather than owners change the way we think about money, possessions, and time?
Scripture Prep (2 min)	Group/discussion leader gives a brief context for the passage
Scripture Reading (2 min)	Choose someone in the group to read the scripture aloud
Open Scripture Discussion (5 min)	Ask your group members if they have any immediate thoughts on the passage. Then, consider reading several of the following passages and ask for reactions to similarities or differences amongst the scriptures. Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:7; 2 Corinthians 8:7; Leviticus 27:30

[GENEROSITY]

WEEK 1
November 1-7

Written Devotional:

"In the remote bush in Africa, hunters have developed a clever way to catch monkeys: they find a gourd, hollow out its insides, fill it with monkey food, and tie it to a tree. The opening is big enough for a monkey's fist to fit, but when the monkey's hand clenches around the food inside, it's too big to remove. Eventually, the hunter returns, and the monkey is still stuck with his hand in the gourd, clutching the food, and he himself becomes food for the hunter. The monkey lacks the perspective that if he does not release the food, his very life will be forfeit. How often do we lack that same perspective? Do we cling so tightly to our money, to building big houses and filling them with nice things, to fancy vacations and fine dining that we forget that everything we have belongs to God first, and He has given it to us to steward well? "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth," Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:19-20, "where moths and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven..." The eternal perspective tells us that in Christ, we have all we need—far more than we deserve, and more than we could ask for or ever imagine. When we live with eternity in view, generosity becomes more than giving away what we have: it becomes an act of worship—a declaration that God is our treasure, our provider, and our true security. Don't be like the monkey. Keep a loose grip on the things of this world. As Christians, God asks us to give up the gifts that were never ours. It is the least we could do in worship for our Lord who has given us eternal life."

Discussion Questions (15-20 min)

- What fear, desire, or attachment most often makes generosity difficult for you?
- Where might God be asking you to loosen your grip and trust Him more fully?

Application

Choose one possession, financial resource, or block of time that you can give for someone else's benefit this week.

Closing Prayer (1-10min)

Ask someone to close in prayer, or share prayer requests and pray together.

[GENEROSITY]

WEEK 2
November 8-14

Focus: *Heaven*

Generosity requires an eternal perspective

Group Flow:

Total Time: 1 hr - 1 hr 30 min
Eat/Mingle: Optional, based on your group's structure (20-30 min)

Warm-Up Questions: (10-15min)	What purchase or possession once seemed extremely important to you but matters much less now?
Go Deeper (5-10 min)	How does remembering eternity change the way Christians should evaluate comfort, wealth, and success?
Scripture Prep (2 min)	Group/discussion leader gives a brief context for the passage
Scripture Reading (2 min)	Choose someone in the group to read the scripture aloud
Open Scripture Discussion (5 min)	Ask your group members if they have any immediate thoughts on the passage. Then, consider reading several of the following passages and ask for reactions to similarities or differences amongst the scriptures. 2 Samuel 24:24; 1 Timothy 6:18-19; Proverbs 3:9-10; Proverbs 19:17

[GENEROSITY]

WEEK 2
November 8-14

Written Devotional:

"Give to everyone who asks of you; and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back." Luke 6:30 (NASB20)

"So therefore, whoever of you does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:33 (RSV)

"And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, 'One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.' But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich." Luke 18:22-23 (RSV)

Ever sympathize with the rich young ruler, or even identify with him? I certainly have, when the Holy Spirit confronts me with passages like these. God has so richly blessed me- certainly spiritually, but also physically and financially. He has enabled many of us to live pretty comfortably and to give- even generously sometimes. And then comes another letter from the elders (and I am one, so I should have been expecting it!), challenging me to give above and beyond- again?!? Granted, I no longer have to work for pay, but I still need money and, after all, haven't I given enough of my money? I gave God His part- why does He keep coming after mine? After all, doesn't He own the cattle on a thousand hills? Why can't He just sell some of those?

Let's consider some of the errors in that last paragraph, shall we? Am I really giving generously, in the face of what Christ has given for me? "I've given enough of my money"- how much of the money I have belongs to me? Who decides where it should go? "He owns the cattle on a thousand hills"- Ps 50:10- true, and what does God say through Nathan in His rebuke to David after Uriah's murder? After God lists what He has already given to David, He says "...and if this were too little, I would add to you as much more." (2 Samuel 12:8). He says the same to me. Whatever I need, He promises to provide and His warehouses are endless. Maybe I have more to learn about what generosity really is...

Discussion Questions (15-20 min)

- Where are you most tempted to find security in material things rather than in God?
- What might God be inviting you to surrender so that you can invest more generously in His Kingdom?

Application

Give up one optional purchase or convenience this week and intentionally redirect that money or resource toward a person or ministry in need.

Closing Prayer

Ask someone to close in prayer, or share prayer requests and pray together.

[GENEROSITY]

WEEK 3
November 15-21

Focus: *Treasure*

Generosity is knowing where to place your treasure

Group Flow:

Total Time: 1 hr - 1 hr 30 min
Eat/Mingle: Optional, based on your group's structure (20-30 min)

Warm-Up Questions: (10-15min)	What is something you once saved for, worked toward, or sacrificed to obtain because you considered it valuable?
Go Deeper (5-10 min)	What do our spending, schedules, and sacrifices reveal about what we truly treasure?
Scripture Prep (2 min)	Group/discussion leader gives a brief context for the passage
Scripture Reading (2 min)	Choose someone in the group to read the scripture aloud
Open Scripture Discussion (5 min)	Ask your group members if they have any immediate thoughts on the passage. Then, consider reading several of the following passages and ask for reactions to similarities or differences amongst the scriptures. Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 12:15; Matthew 13:44; Philippians 3:7-8

[GENEROSITY]

WEEK 3
November 15-21

Written Devotional:

"In Mark 8:36, Jesus asks us a poignant question, "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul?" Jesus was asking the people what treasure can you acquire that is more valuable than your soul? Jesus then provides the answer by saying, "For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it" (V.35). One might ask, "How do I lose my life to save my soul?" Jesus again answers this question by saying, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (V.34).

When we think of what Jesus did for us on the cross for us, there is no greater form of love and generosity than laying down one's life for another. Jesus affirmed this statement when He said, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

When one accepts Christ as his Lord and Savior, we become His disciple and are tasked with "The Great Commission" (Matt.28:19-20). We also receive the Holy Spirit who helps us with our sanctification (i.e. conforms us to become more and more like Christ). So when you confront challenges in life, ask yourself this question, "What would Jesus do in this situation?""

Discussion Questions (15-20 min)

- What fear or assumption surfaces when you consider giving beyond what feels comfortable?
- Where might your priorities reveal that you treasure something more than knowing and following Christ?

Application

Review one week of your spending or calendar. Identify one change that would better reflect an eternal priority, and put that change into practice this week.

Closing Prayer (1-10min)

Ask someone to close in prayer, or share prayer requests and pray together.

[GENEROSITY]

WEEK 4
November 22-28

Focus: *Heart*

Generosity forms your heart into Christ-likeness

Group Flow:

Total Time: 1 hr - 1 hr 30 min
Eat/Mingle: Optional, based on your group's structure (20-30 min)

Warm-Up Questions: (10-15min)	What is an unexpected act of generosity someone has shown you? Why has it stayed with you?
Go Deeper (5-10 min)	How does practicing generosity shape our hearts and make us more like Christ?
Scripture Prep (2 min)	Group/discussion leader gives a brief context for the passage
Scripture Reading (2 min)	Choose someone in the group to read the scripture aloud
Open Scripture Discussion (5 min)	Ask your group members if they have any immediate thoughts on the passage. Then, consider reading several of the following passages and ask for reactions to similarities or differences amongst the scriptures. 1 John 3:17; 1 Corinthians 13:3; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Luke 6:35-36

[GENEROSITY]

WEEK 4
November 22-28

Written Devotional:

In Matthew 19 Jesus said, "...Go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven." What is the world is Jesus talking about? That sounds illogical! As we conclude our focus on generosity, we come to the heart of the matter. Jesus is always more interested in our heart over our actions. He is wants our state of "being" more than our "doing." The things we do are to flow from our hearts, and the things we do in turn shape and reinforce the affections of our hearts. One may consider treasure in a much deeper context than just our money and possessions. Our treasure may be anything close to our hearts. A treasure is something that is highly prized, cherished, and emotionally valuable. It may be anything we cherish and includes so much more than money, such as our time, our attention, and our energy. When we store up our treasure in heaven, our hearts are drawn towards our relationship with the Lord (Matthew 6:19-21) and our state of being is formed more towards His likeness. Jesus challenges the rich young ruler in Matthew 19 to give away his possessions because it is a test of what his heart really treasures. The challenge is not so much about giving away his wealth as it is demonstrating his love, his state of being, for Christ. When we are generous, we not only demonstrate God's love to others, we are storing our treasure in heaven and forming our hearts into His likeness. How might you bless another and perhaps draw your heart just a little closer this His by completing an act of kindness today?

Discussion Questions (15-20 min)

- Do your current patterns of spending, time, and attention reflect the generosity of Jesus? Where is there room for growth?
- What motives—love, gratitude, guilt, recognition, obligation, or something else —most often influence your giving?

Application

Perform one unexpected act of generosity this week. Give in a way that meets a real need, expects nothing in return, and directs attention toward God's goodness.

Closing Prayer (1-10min)

Ask someone to close in prayer, or share prayer requests and pray together.

CELEBRATION

Mark 5:19-20

And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

[CELEBRATION]

WEEK 1
December 6-12

Focus: *Jesus*

Celebration starts with understanding what Jesus has done for you

Group Flow:

Total Time: 1 hr - 1 hr 30 min
Eat/Mingle: Optional, based on your group's structure (20-30 min)

Warm-Up Questions: (10-15min)	What is something good that has happened recently that you wanted to celebrate with someone else?
Go Deeper (5-10 min)	What is the difference between temporary happiness based on circumstances and the lasting joy we have in Jesus?
Scripture Prep (2 min)	Group/discussion leader gives a brief context for the passage
Scripture Reading (2 min)	Choose someone in the group to read the scripture aloud
Open Scripture Discussion (5 min)	Ask your group members if they have any immediate thoughts on the passage. Then, consider reading several of the following passages and ask for reactions to similarities or differences amongst the scriptures. Hebrews 7:24-25; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2; John 15:11

[CELEBRATION]

WEEK 1
December 6-12

Written Devotional:

"After Jesus drove the legion of demons out of the man who lived among the tombs in the country of the Gerasenes (Mark 5), He told the man to tell his people what great things the Lord had done for him, and that's what he did. He "began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him." This man was celebrating his deliverance by Jesus from a horde of demons. Our celebration also begins with a realization of what Jesus has done and continues to do for us. By His obedience to God the Father, Jesus delivered us from sin and earned eternal life for us by taking our punishment on Himself at the cross. Now, He intercedes for us as our High Priest and Advocate in heaven (Hebrews 7:24-25; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1) The formerly demon-possessed man had no doubt what Jesus had done for him, and neither do we. This is the foundation of our celebration in Christ.

It makes sense to equate celebration with joy, one of the fruits of the Spirit. Joy transcends mere happiness, which is based on favorable circumstances. Jesus, "for the joy set before Him," was able to endure the cross for our sake, and now sits at the right hand of the Father's throne (Heb 12:2). When He talked to His followers about abiding in Him, Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full" (John 15:11). That joy, as Nehemiah said, is our strength (Neh 8:10). So let's celebrate what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us and countless others!"

Discussion Questions (15-20 min)

- What has Jesus done—or what is He doing now—that gives you the greatest reason to celebrate?
- How does remembering what Christ has done affect your willingness to tell others about Him?

Application

Begin each day this week by naming one thing Jesus has done for you. Thank Him for it and share one of those reasons for celebration with another person.

Closing Prayer (1-10min)

Ask someone to close in prayer, or share prayer requests and pray together.

[CELEBRATION]

WEEK 2
December 13-19

Focus: *Story*

Celebration requires putting words to your spiritual transformation

Group Flow:

Total Time: 1 hr - 1 hr 30 min
Eat/Mingle: Optional, based on your group's structure (20-30 min)

Warm-Up Questions: (10-15min)	What is a favorite story from your family history, childhood, or personal experience? Why do you enjoy telling it?
Go Deeper (5-10 min)	Why do personal stories sometimes communicate the truth and power of the gospel in ways that explanations alone cannot?
Scripture Prep (2 min)	Group/discussion leader gives a brief context for the passage
Scripture Reading (2 min)	Choose someone in the group to read the scripture aloud
Open Scripture Discussion (5 min)	Ask your group members if they have any immediate thoughts on the passage. Then, consider reading several of the following passages and ask for reactions to similarities or differences amongst the scriptures. Psalm 107:1-2; Psalm 66:16; 1 Peter 3:15-16; Acts 26:12-18

[CELEBRATION]

WEEK 2
December 13-19

Written Devotional:

Why celebrate story? Are stories important? Imagine our world today if Paul had never written anything down or dictated the story he told of the life and way of Jesus Christ? No Romans, no 1 and 2 Corinthians, no Galatians, no Philippians, no Thessalonians, and no Philemon, nor would we likely have Ephesians, Colossians, nor 1 and 2 Timothy, nor even Titus. What if John Mark never thought to record stories he learned from companions such as Peter, Paul or Barnabas, would we even have the second Gospel? The Good News these stories reveal make up about half of the New Testament! Would we have completeness for the greatest story ever told? Would we have the same understanding of the Love Christ has for each of us, His sacrifice for our sins, or even a full comprehension of His Resurrection?

In Mark 5:19-20 we see the significance of story in Christ's direction to the once demon-possessed man who wanted to follow Him, yet 19 Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." 20 So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed." Jesus knew all too well the significance of a story such this man's miraculous recovery. His personal testimony of Jesus amazed the ten cities of the Decapolis. A story of a transformed life unburdened by the yoke of possession and shame, transforming others. One witness, conveying the Good News to thousands. Story celebrates evangelism. Now imagine putting your story of Jesus' transformation in your life by writing it down and conveying it to others - it will change lives!

Discussion Questions (15-20 min)

- How would you describe the difference Jesus has made in your life?
- What keeps you from putting your spiritual story into words—uncertainty, fear, privacy, believing it is not dramatic enough, or something else?

Application

Write a brief version of your story this week using three movements: what your life was like, how Jesus met you, and what He is doing in your life now.

Closing Prayer (1-10min)

Ask someone to close in prayer, or share prayer requests and pray together.

[CELEBRATION]

WEEK 3
December 20-26

Focus: *Tell*

Celebration happens when you tell others what Jesus has done for you

Group Flow:

Total Time: 1 hr - 1 hr 30 min
Eat/Mingle: Optional, based on your group's structure (20-30 min)

Warm-Up Questions: (10-15min)	What Christmas tradition, song, or memory are you most likely to tell someone else about?
Go Deeper (5-10 min)	After seeing Jesus, the shepherds immediately told others what they had experienced. What does their response teach us about genuine celebration?
Scripture Prep (2 min)	Group/discussion leader gives a brief context for the passage
Scripture Reading (2 min)	Choose someone in the group to read the scripture aloud
Open Scripture Discussion (5 min)	Ask your group members if they have any immediate thoughts on the passage. Then, consider reading several of the following passages and ask for reactions to similarities or differences amongst the scriptures. Luke 2:8-14; Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 2:15-20; Matthew 1:20-23

[CELEBRATION]

WEEK 3
December 20-26

Written Devotional:

""But we will tell the generation to come the praises of the Lord, And His power and His wondrous works that He has done." Psalm 78:4 Where would we be if those who came before us had not proclaimed the good news or told of God's wondrous works? Telling what Jesus has done for us is a powerful way to bring glory to the Father for generations. Yet many believers go years without sharing what Jesus has done for them. I know I did.

I stayed quiet for 10 years. I was worried no one would understand, that sharing God's work in my life might sound self-centered, or that what felt special to me wouldn't matter to others. My dilemma was more about me than God. If you relate - if you've felt tempted to hold back - that intimidation and fear is not from God. One of the enemy's tired tactics is to keep us quiet so we won't bring glory to God, proclaim the good news of Jesus, and make His name known. Throughout Scripture, God repeatedly tells His people to remember what He has done and tell others: "Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done." 1 Chronicles 16:8. Hosting the Faith Conversations Podcast has shown me firsthand that our stories put God's character on display. When we tell of His goodness, faithfulness, power and presence, others see evidence of the same God they read about in Scripture actively working today.

Your testimony doesn't have to be dramatic, and you don't have to share every detail. But don't let fear, busyness or discomfort keep God's good works hidden in the shadows. Remember what He has done. Tell someone. Bring His goodness into the light—and invite others to celebrate Him with you."

Discussion Questions (15-20 min)

- What has Jesus done in your life that deserves to be remembered and shared?
- What fear, insecurity, or distraction most often keeps you from telling others about God's work in your life?

Application

Look for one natural opportunity during Christmas week to move a conversation beyond holiday activities and share why the coming of Jesus matters to you.

Closing Prayer (1-10min)

Ask someone to close in prayer, or share prayer requests and pray together.

[CELEBRATION]

WEEK 4
December 27-January 2

Focus: *Amazement*

Celebration results in the Lord being lifted up in amazement for who He is

Group Flow:

Total Time: 1 hr - 1 hr 30 min
Eat/Mingle: Optional, based on your group's structure (20-30 min)

Warm-Up Questions: (10-15min)	Was there a moment during this Christmas season that caused you to stop, reflect, or feel a sense of wonder?
Go Deeper (5-10 min)	What does the incarnation—God coming to live among us in Jesus—reveal about God's character and His love for us?
Scripture Prep (2 min)	Group/discussion leader gives a brief context for the passage
Scripture Reading (2 min)	Choose someone in the group to read the scripture aloud
Open Scripture Discussion (5 min)	Ask your group members if they have any immediate thoughts on the passage. Then, consider reading several of the following passages and ask for reactions to similarities or differences amongst the scriptures. Luke 2:25-32; Matthew 2:9-11; John 1:1-5, 14; Galatians 4:4-7

[CELEBRATION]

WEEK 4
December 27-January 2

Written Devotional:

When was the last time you stopped long enough to be genuinely amazed by what the Lord has done in your life? Mark 5:19-20 (ESV): "And he did not permit him but said to him, 'Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.' And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled." That final phrase captures the heart of celebration: "everyone marveled." Another way of saying it would be that everyone was AMAZED! One man, previously demon possessed now free from the grip of the enemy, simply told the story of God's mercy, and the result was amazement at what Jesus had done.

Biblical celebration lifts our eyes from the gift to the Giver. Psalm 40:5 (ESV) says, "You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you!" When I intentionally remember God's wondrous and amazing deeds, gratitude becomes worship and celebration becomes my testimony. We can look back across my own life and see God's fingerprints everywhere—through years of service and leadership, through my family, through ministry, through victories, disappointments, transitions, and unexpected blessings. Our story should reflect His glory. It should never be about what we accomplished, but about how much the Lord has done for us.

This week identify three specific things God has done your life, thank Him for each one, and intentionally share one with someone else—not to draw attention to myself, but to lift up Christ.

Discussion Questions (15-20 min)

- As you look back over this year, where can you see evidence of God's presence, provision, or faithfulness?
- How can we celebrate Christmas and God's blessings without allowing the gifts to overshadow Jesus, the Giver?

Application

Before the year ends, write down three specific things God has done in your life. Thank Him for each one, then share one with someone else so that your celebration directs attention to Jesus.

Closing Prayer (1-10min)

Ask someone to close in prayer, or share prayer requests and pray together.



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