**HOME GROUP GUIDE**

**January 5, 2020**

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

**Sermon Title: Closer to Jesus**

**About this guide:**

This guide is provided to assist your home group in discussion and application of the most recent sermon. This guide provides direction for application-based discussion within a small group as well as discussion material. **Please know that the guide is not designed with the intent that every question be answered systematically**. Feel free to pick and choose the questions that fit your group and structure your time together using the guide to maximize your group’s benefit.

Notice organization of the guide: looking back, looking up and looking forward. “Looking back” is the time for the group to consider how the last week or two has gone, to share about struggles and victories. Consider choosing one or two items from this section to answer.

“Looking Up and Looking Forward” is a time to discuss the sermon and how the group might further apply the truth of God’s word, making specific plans individually and as a group to walk by faith in the week to come. This is also a time to encourage each other, minister to each other and pray for each other. Try to choose a couple elements from each section.

The guide also contains a family discipleship section with a few ideas on how to intentionally engage in following the Lord as a family.

**Looking back:**

* Share how you have been doing since you last met:
  + What biblical truths have been shaping your life and heart over the last week or so?
  + What has dominated your prayer life this week?
  + What was a “win” in your life this last week (something that happened that resulted in thankfulness, a moment of spiritual growth or victory, an answered prayer, etc.)?
  + What was the biggest challenge in your life this last week? Is there anything that you need to share with your home group in the form of confession?
* With whom were you able to begin to build a gospel bridge of conversation since the last time we met? With whom were you able to share the gospel message?
* How can the group help you in your life this next week?

**Looking Up and Looking Forward (Specific, Realistic, Measurable, Personal):**

1. Saul had Ananias come to him and help lead him closer to Jesus. There

would have been someone else who helped lead Ananias closer to Jesus.

Everybody has other people along the way who help them grow closer to

Jesus.

* + Who helped lead you closer to Jesus? What did they do that helped you grow closer to Jesus?
  + Who have you helped grow closer to Jesus? What did that look like for you to help them grow closer to Jesus?
  + Who is in your life right now, that you can help them grow closer to Jesus? What is your next step in helping them grow closer to Jesus?

1. All of us are called by the Lord to help lead others to grow closer to Jesus, but we also have to lead ourselves so we grow closer to Jesus. Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.
   * In what ways is Paul intentionally leading himself closer to Jesus in this passage?
   * Paul clearly lays out intentional discipline in his life so he can grow closer to Jesus. What are some disciplines in your life that help you grow closer to Jesus? What would be one discipline you would like to focus on in 2020? How can your home group help you in this desire?
   * What are some daily/weekly/monthly rhythms you have in your life that help you grow closer to Jesus? Is there a rhythm in your life already that you could be intentional about shaping it to help you (and your family) grow closer to Jesus? (ie…you eat dinner together 4 nights a week as a family. This is a set rhythm, so how can you be intentional with that rhythm to help you all grow closer to Jesus. Or you work out 4 times a week. How can this rhythm be intentional?)

1. We all have challenges that become roadblocks to us growing closer to

Jesus. The question is not whether we will have challenges to our growing closer to Jesus, it is what will we do when the roadblocks show up.

* + Kevin mentioned lies we can’t believe. Which lie are you most likely to believe? How has that impacted your life? In what ways can your home group encourage you and walk with you toward what is true and away from believing the lie?
  + What are challenges you have in being disciplined on a regular basis? In what ways can your home group come alongside you in these challenges?

1. It is helpful to start each year assessing where you are and where you want to go. The same is true for your home group.
   * What is one way your group helped you grow closer to Jesus in 2019?
   * What is one area of growth you want to see for your home group in 2020?
   * Are there any changes your group needs to make in order to improve the growth opportunity for everyone?
   * Is there anybody you need to invite to become a part of your home group in 2020?

**Don’t forget:**

1. Pray for one another. Share one specific prayer request you need your group to pray each day until you meet again.
2. Pray for each of our campuses/venues: the Georgetown campus- Worship Center Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and Liberty Hill Campus at 11:00 a.m.
3. Pray for who the Lord would have you help lead closer to Jesus.

**Family Discipleship:**

**When you wake**:

Every morning this week read 1 Corinthians 9:19 and spend time praying together asking the Lord to help you be ready to lead someone who is close to you closer to Jesus. As the Lord brings names to mind pray specifically for people by name and write down how the Lord answers your prayers.

**Before you sleep**:

Pray with your family about the people you have been around that day. Write down in a family journal what you are praying for each person and as the Lord answers prayers come back to this journal and write down how the Lord answered. On occasion bring out the journal and read the ways the Lord has answered as a reminder of God’s faithfulness.

**When you sit down:**

Gather your family together and ask each person to answer three questions:

1. How did you see the Lord grow you closer to Him in 2019?
2. How would you like to grow closer to the Lord in 2020?
3. Who has God put in your life that you can help them grow closer to Jesus?

Talk about how you can encourage each other in these areas. Celebrate what the Lord has done in 2019 and help each person map a course for growing closer to Jesus in 2020. Then write down the names of the people that were listed and put them up somewhere so your family can see them consistently.

**Along the way:**

As you go about your daily routines look for opportunities to help someone around you grow closer to Jesus and point out those moments to your kids. When those moments happen, stop and pray thanking the Lord for the opportunity and praying for the person you sought to help grow closer to Jesus.