**HOME GROUP GUIDE**

**January 12, 2020**

**1 Corinthians 9:19-22**

**Sermon Title: Closer to Jesus Part II**

**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. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19 and talk about what it means practically for our daily lives if we live this out.
   * The people you are best positioned to lead closer to Jesus are those you are in proximity to on a regular basis. What are some groups of people you are in proximity to regularly? (ie…family, co-workers)
   * How can you maximize your proximity to these people in order to help them grow closer to Jesus?
   * How have you seen someone in your Home Group be intentional with the people they are in proximity to? Encourage one another with how you have seen the Lord work through the people in your group to help others outside the group grow closer to Jesus.
2. There are two dangers the Bible talks about when we are in proximity to the world: The lure to become like the world and the pain from being hated and rejected by the world. We need to navigate these two dangers and still live in the world.
   * Which of these two dangers is more likely to keep you from being intentional with the people in proximity to you? How can your Home Group walk with you through this?
   * How can you avoid being paralyzed by fear of people’s responses or a desire to be comfortable? What are you willing to give up in order for someone else to know Jesus? (The answer to this question is a good litmus test for where your heart is.) How can you change the perspective from what you are giving up to focus on what you are living for?
   * How do you live in the world and avoid the temptations of the world? (If our mindset is one of strangers who are not home in this world and we seek to be close to the Lord and close to the church, then we will find our purpose in seeking to reach the world and not in trying to find identity in the world.)
3. If our purpose is to reach people we are in proximity to at times that means expanding or changing who we are in proximity to. Especially for people who have been in church for a long time, it is easy to end up having very few or no non-believers in your everyday proximity.
   * Are you mostly in proximity to believers or non-believers?
   * How can you carve out intentional opportunities to be in proximity to people who don’t believe in Jesus?
   * How can your Home Group be intentional about being in proximity to people you want to help lead closer to Jesus?

**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 opportunities and specific people you are in proximity to.

**Family Discipleship:**

**When you wake**:

Read 1 Corinthians 9:19 every morning. Memorize this verse together as a family. Ask the Lord to help this become your heart’s desire every day. Admit where this is hard and encourage one another toward this purpose in whatever your family faces during the day.

**Before you sleep**:

Spend time praying each night before going to bed for those you were in proximity to during the day. Ask the Lord to continue to bring your paths together and for the courage and boldness to be a blessing to them and share Jesus with them. Be specific-pray for people by name.

**When you sit down:**

When you have everybody gathered together, get out three sheets of paper. On the first sheet of paper draw a map of the houses around you in your neighborhood. Then write the names of the people in each house by their house on the map. On the second sheet of paper write down the names of people you are around regularly at work and for your kids the names of people they are around regularly at school, on sports teams, clubs, musical groups etc…On the third sheet write down the names of extended family members you have interaction with. Then lay all three sheets out and talk about how the Lord has put your family in proximity to all of these people for a purpose. He wants us to lead these people who are close to us closer to Him. Talk about ways your family can be a blessing to these people and spend time praying for them. Put these three sheets up somewhere visible and come back to it frequently as you pray together.

**Along the way:**

When you are tempted by the lure of the world talk about it with your kids. Point out how the world is tempting, but it is not our home. Remind them that we do not ignore the world, even though it is hard to be in the world and not be lured by it. We are here to share Jesus with others so we grow closer to Him as our anchor as we seek to lead others to grow closer to Him.