**HOME GROUP GUIDE**

**January 19, 2020**

**I Corinthians 9:19-23**

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

**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): Read I Corinthians 9:19-24**

1. What does this passage tell us about how, as believers, we should position ourselves as it relates to other people?

* How does this verse create a framework for us to focus on leading those who are close to us, closer to Jesus?
* What does it mean to “become all things to all people”? (vs. 22) What does this look like in your life?
* What are the risks in becoming all things to all people? Consider I John 2:15-17. Have you struggled with this?
* What are the benefits of becoming all things to all people? Consider I Corinthians 9: 22-23.

1. Consider this statement: *The people in the world in proximity to us are the people we should be leading closer to Jesus.*

* Who are the people in closest proximity to you– both in physical location but also in a relational sense? Think about your family, coworkers, neighbors, etc. Write down the names of people that come to mind.
* Within your homegroup, go around the table and have each person quickly name a different group of people that they are in proximity to and routinely interact with. Keep going around the circle.

I expect that it is pretty amazing how many different groups of people came up. Imagine if each person in your homegroup began to take steps to interact with each person they named in such a way that would lead them closer to Jesus. Can you imagine the impact within families, neighborhoods, workplaces, and all of Georgetown! Spend time praying together for the people you listed.

1. *How are you doing right now in leading those people closer to Jesus?* Oftentimes, when we begin to evaluate whether we are actually leading others closer to Jesus, we experience a guilty feeling of “I’m not doing enough.” While it is good to take time to intentionally evaluate whether our lives reflect what we say we are about; we want to focus on small, identifiable steps we can take to move forward rather than be paralyzed by guilt that we are not doing enough.

* For each group that you identified above, what is one next step you can take to lead them closer to Jesus? Break it down to specific action steps with your home group. For example, maybe it’s praying for your neighbors as you go on a walk, or actually stopping at work to ask (and listen) to how your coworker is really doing rather than a cursory daily greeting, or maybe it’s carving out specific discipleship time with your kids.
* Write your next steps down, tell your group and ask them to check in with you to see how you are doing. Encourage one another to take a next step together.

**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 that the group’s fellowship with God and one another would become enriched by the study of how God wants us to surrender to His will for our lives.

**Family Discipleship Ideas (Deuteronomy 6:5-7):**

**When you wake**:

Each morning read the verse and use the conversation starter below.

**Read 1 Peter 3:13-18**

Monday — After reading the verse, ask your family to summarize what they just heard in their own words.  Pray for hearts that are eager to do good.

Tuesday — What are some ways we might suffer if we share Christ with someone?  Pray for the strength and desire to suffer for Jesus.

Wednesday — What would the Bible say “we are blessed” if we suffer?  Pray that we would not be at home in the comforts and security of the things of this world.

Thursday—  If someone asked you why you have hope in Jesus, what would you say?  Pray that the Lord would make clear the blessings and hope we receive today.

Friday — Why is the gentleness and treatment of others important as a Christian   How can it affect our sharing Jesus with other people?  If you are gentle to others in how you share Jesus, how would it make someone who speaks badly of you ashamed?   Pray that we would walk in a manner worthy of the Lord so that we might bring fame to Him when we interact with others.

**Before you sleep**:

As you tuck your children into bed at night (whether aged 2 or 22) remind them of these simple truths:

* The Lord calls His children BY NAME.  He has a plan for your child. (Acts 16:31)
* God promises if we believe in the Lord Jesus we will be saved. It’s not based on what WE do, but what HE did.
* God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. ([2 Tim 1:7](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=2ti+1:7))
* We were created by Him to do good things that He has already prepared for us.  All we have to do is follow Him.  (Eph 2:9)

**God’s children have offered blessings to their children since ancient times.  As you say goodnight, grab your child’s hand and pray this short blessing.  Don’t worry, you’ll have it memorized soon enough. But, in the meantime, there’s no shame in reading it from your phone or a printed copy.** **You’ll be surprised how much they love it, and how quickly they come to expect it.** *“The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”*[*Numbers 6:24-26*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=nu+6:24-26)

**When you sit down:**

**Grab a Bible.  Read and discuss Romans 10:10-17 with your family.**.

Who has been given the task of spreading the news of Jesus on this earth?

Can you think of anyone who shared Jesus with you?

List some things that keep people from telling others about Jesus?

As a family, compile a short list of people who you might begin to pray for heading toward Easter.

**Along the way:**

As you drive to and from drop-offs and pick-ups, here are some conversation starters to engage your kids in.

* Ask your family to pay attention today to the moments they are tempted to avoid engaging someone else—those times they’d rather turn the other way and not be bothered.
* Ask if your child had any interesting opportunities to be like Christ to someone today.
* Who can we pray for while we drive down the road?  (Eyes open of course.)