**HOME GROUP GUIDE**

**January 26, 2020**

**1 Corinthians 9:19-23**

**Sermon Title: Home Base**

**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 1 Corinthians 9:19-23**

Recap: As we seek to become outposts for the gospel, we need to be reminded of the blessing and necessity of having a home base that provides encouragement and support for our missional endeavors. The home base of a Bible believing local church reminds us that we are all under the authority and leadership of Jesus Christ.

1. As we begin to identify how we might lead someone close to us closer to Jesus, we’re going to need the help and guidance of the local church.
   1. What thoughts or emotions come to mind when you hear the phrase “church authority”? What past memories or experiences shape these emotions? What has been your experience with Church leadership in the past? Has it been the same as your experience with church leadership at FBG?
   2. Why is it necessary to have a home base as you seek to become a missional outpost for the gospel? What benefits does a home base provide? In what ways does your home group provide many of these same benefits? Make a list of all the reasons why you are thankful for your home group and share these with each other.
2. Having a home base to regroup during our missional endeavors is essential to our existence as Christians.
   1. What are some competing interests/hobbies that interfere with your commitment to the local church? How would you rate the importance of these hobbies in comparison to church attendance and participation?
   2. What does it look to really participate as a part of the church family?
   3. Is church attendance and participation essential to our existence or a competing option among many alternatives? What are some activities that compete with church involvement that we need to consider giving up in order to more fully follow Christ? Take some time to discuss these with your home group and pray for one another.
3. One of the major advantages of having a home base (church) is the blessing of accountability which leads to authenticity.
   1. What are the dangers of engaging in missional relationships with people outside of the church? How can the church help us defend against these potential temptations? What role does the home group play in this?
   2. How does being accountable to other believers enhance our authenticity as Christians? In what ways can secret or unconfessed sin potentially destroy our authenticity among nonbelievers? How can we as a home group take steps toward becoming more accountable to one another?

**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., Gym Venue at 11:00 a.m. and Liberty Hill Campus at 11:00 a.m.
3. Give thanks for the blessings of a local church that provides us with a home base where we can find rest and strength to continue our mission.
4. Pray for the one person you are asking the Lord to help you lead them closer to Jesus.