

## Life Together: January – February 2019

| Date                   | Scripture   | Title  | Big Idea   | Practices  |
|------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| <b>January<br/>13</b>  | Acts 2:42-47  | <b>Life Together<br/>(Introduction)</b>                          | Life together is the core, not an optional element but Jesus' best plan for how to live as an apprentice of Jesus. Church community is a messy but essential journey of shared practices and choices, with Christ at the centre.                                     | <b>Life Group:</b> 10-15 minute journaling exercise on your +/- experience with Christian community and its impact on your desire/openness to pursuing Acts 2 community with others, followed by discussion (questions provided).  |
| <b>January<br/>20</b>  | Ephesians 5:25-27<br>Revelation 19:7-8, 21-22   | <b>Being Together<br/>(The Fellowship)</b>                       | As the <b>Bride of Christ</b> , disciples embrace covenant relationships, making a commitment and adjusting their priorities and schedule to <i>devote</i> themselves to sharing the journey with fellow believers.  | <b>Life Group:</b> Reflection on the "one anothers" of the NT with discussion on how to do this more intentionally as a group. What makes the difference between Christian friends hanging out and genuine "spiritual" community? Close with time of recommitment/prayer.  |
| <b>January<br/>27</b>  | John 15:1-17  | <b>Learning Together<br/>(Apostles' Teaching)</b>                | As <b>branches connected to the Vine</b> (Christ), our "preferred outcome" is not just intellectual knowledge about God, but joyful obedience to the Truth. Disciples welcome Truth spoken in love, and have courage to speak the Truth in love to one another.      | <b>Life Group:</b> Groups of 3-4 look at a Scripture, discuss four questions (concern, answer, connection, response) together. Pray together about the things that have arisen in your conversation. Follow up with larger group reflection on the experience (questions/framework provided) This would be a good week to talk more about Apprentice Groups! |
| <b>February<br/>3</b>  | TBD. May include...<br>Romans 8:16-17<br>Matthew 12:48-50<br>Ephesians 1:4-5<br>Hebrews 2:11<br>1 Timothy 3:14-15 | <b>Eating Together<br/>(Breaking of Bread)</b>                   | As the <b>Family of God</b> , children of a generous heavenly Father, disciples make room at the table for each other with all our differences, understanding and sharing the welcome we have received from Christ.  | <b>Life Group:</b> Have a meal together that integrates the Lord's Supper within it, with Scripture and testimony to God's faithfulness shared as you eat together (framework provided). Make sure there is lots of food!  |
| <b>February<br/>10</b> | TBD. May include...<br>1 Corinthians 12<br>Romans 12<br>Ephesians 4<br>Ephesians 1:22-23<br>1 Peter 4             | <b>Giving Together<br/>(Gave to anyone as<br/>they had need)</b> | As the <b>Body of Christ</b> , we resist individualistic, consumeristic approaches to community; each one plays a part in caring for one another's needs and equipping one another to carry God's "divine conspiracy" of love into our personal and corporate lives. | <b>Life Group:</b> A facilitated time of sharing about personal practical needs or a cause/need that group members care about, and what each could offer to help. How might the group schedule a time to meet that need together? What difference would it make?   |
| <b>February<br/>17</b> | Matthew 6:9-13  | <b>Praying Together<br/>(The Prayers)</b>                        | As the <b>Temple of God</b> , the Spirit dwells among us. Disciples follow Jesus' model of prayer, seeking to reach out and experience the reign of God, available and present to us here and now.   | <b>Life Group:</b> A facilitated time of prayer based on a Lord's Prayer "liturgy," followed by conversation about the experience.   |

Notes:

- ❖ Some of these practices might be a stretch for your group. Don't rule them out just because they are different – use it as a learning experience (like Jesus asking his disciples to feed a multitude!).
- ❖ Some of these practices may seem elementary compared to what your group normally does together. Then don't let us hold you back!
- ❖ You may want to adapt the practice to make it more appropriate to your group. Go for it!
- ❖ Remember, experiential learning is a powerful tool for growth! Please don't just settle for another “comfort zone” discussion, if what is suggested is more experiential. Often we can substitute discussion for action, and think we understood.

What you (all) have learned and received and heard and seen in me, **put it into practice [exercise].**

And the God of peace will be with you.”

Philippians 4:19

So then, just as you (all) received Christ Jesus as Lord, **continue to live your lives [keep walking] in him,** rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Colossians 2:6-7

“But as for you, **continue [abide/remain in] in what you have learned and have become convinced of,** because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

2 Timothy 3:14-15

## Life Together Study Guide

### Basic Structure

#### Prayer

*Invitation to the Holy Spirit to lead and guide your time together*

#### “Check-in”

*Brief catch-up on life (e.g. highs and lows)*

#### Sunday Teaching Debrief

*2-3 questions giving people opportunity to reflect on what they heard.*

#### Practice Overview

*1-2 paragraphs of introduction to the practice and its role in Christian community.*

#### Scripture

*A short section of Scripture with 2-3 questions of reflection.*

#### Experience the Practice

*Group follows the step-by-step explanation of the practice.  
2-3 reflection questions on the experience.*

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*These sections may be adapted/re-ordered.*