

**MEMBERS'S GUIDE**

**LIVING WITH  
FAITH  
IN TRYING  
TIMES**

***LOOKING AT THE FAITH OF  
THOSE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT***



Life Group Member's Guide

# **LIVING WITH FAITH IN TRYING TIMES**

LEARNING TO LIVE A LIFE OF FAITH THROUGH OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS

**First Baptist Church of Eugene**

September 2020 – Version 1.0



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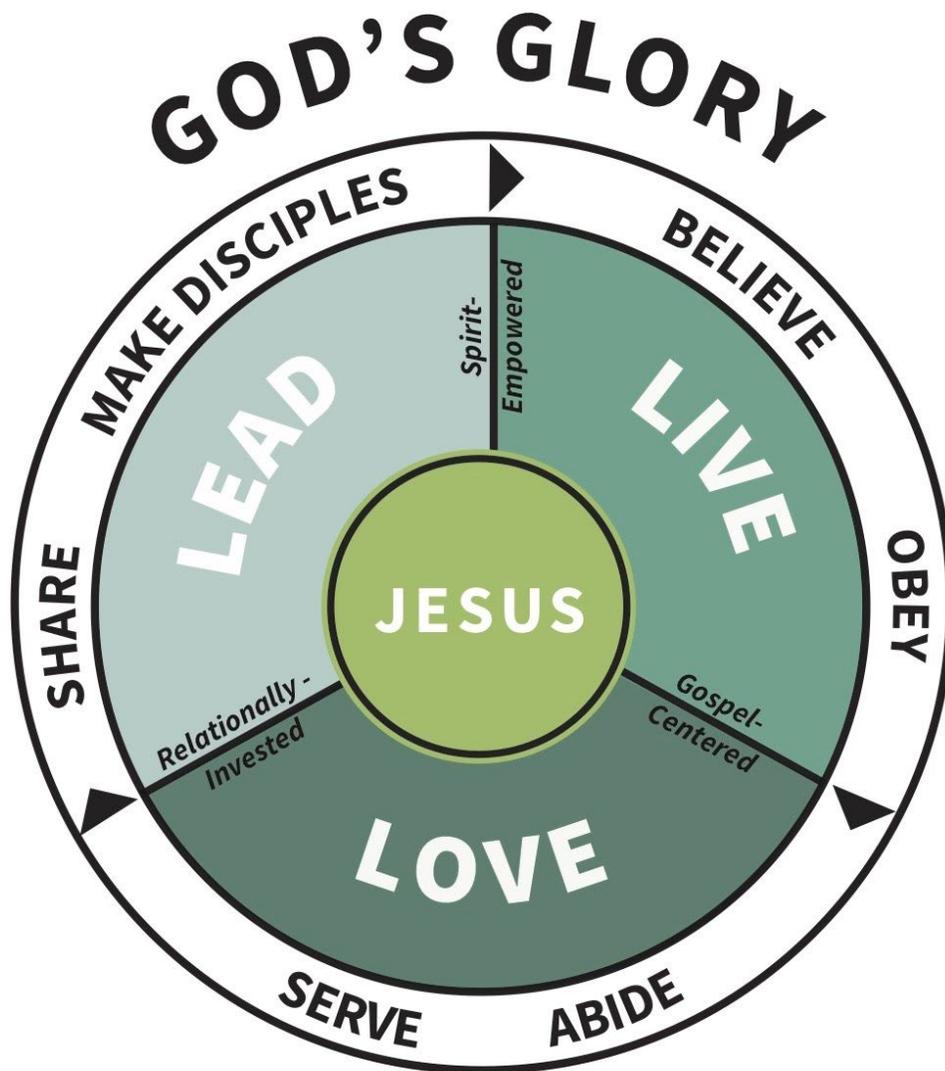
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# PROFILE OF A DISCIPLE





# LIFE GROUP MEMBER'S GUIDE

## LETTING GOD WORK IN AND THROUGH US

### *INTRODUCTION*

Life can often hold unexpected and sometimes unpleasant surprises. Experiences can push us and test us in ways that we never would have anticipated. In those trying times, our patience can be stretched, and even though we know that life will eventually get better and return to some semblance of normal, new things will come to challenge us - personally and in our community. Will we respond by keeping our eyes on our Lord and live and respond in faith?

This study focuses on a handful of characters from the Old Testament, with the goal of looking at and learning from their examples of faith during difficult circumstances. In John 16:33, Jesus told us two lasting truths. The first truth is that **in this world we will have trouble** - God is not shy about the fact that this world will not be easy. The second truth is the best of the two - Jesus tells us to take heart, for **He has overcome the world**. That truth never changes, and holding onto faith in God can help us through the troubles in life. That's our prayer for this curriculum - that we would learn from these examples to hold onto the solid truth of God in our ever-changing world.

Being part of a life group can be an amazing experience, because God grows us in different ways when we gather in circles with other Christ followers in addition to our Sunday rows. Our encouragement to you as a life group member is to participate well! Be involved in your group, and invest in the relationships that you find there. Offer and receive grace in the ways that your group handles differences of opinion and difficult situations. Challenge yourself to try new things and participate in ways that might surprise you. Enjoy growing together as you study, and use this guide as an opportunity to deepen your weekly gatherings with your life group. Take note of how God is moving in your life, and at the end of this study, take a moment to reflect and thank Him in prayer for all that He has done in you. May this study be a blessing to you and your group as you learn from and follow these examples of faith.



# LIFEGROUP MEMBER'S GUIDE

## INTRODUCTION TO THE CURRICULUM

Below is the basic format for each week. Take as long as you need in any given section, engage deeply with the scripture. This is not something to check-off or rush through, but an opportunity to interact with God and learn from Him. You may want to set aside time a couple of days during the week to read through the story; it is likely that different parts will stand out at different times. Remember, this is just a guide for you to use however it benefits your time with God.



### PREPARE

Here you'll find a few suggestions to help get the most from your time and be able to focus.



### ENGAGE

In this section, you'll find questions to help you interact with the passage and dig-in deeper. Use these as a guide to get below the surface of the story, but they aren't a checklist; they are there to help if you want them. The point is to engage in the scripture and start to unpack what you are reading.



### APPLICATION

This is where life and scripture intersect and what you are hearing from God is implemented.



### CLOSING

A few suggestions on ways to end your time.



### NOTES

A place to jot down your thoughts, what strikes you from the story, ideas or questions you'd like to share with your Life Group.

# FOLLOWING GOD'S CALL:

## ABRAHAM

GENESIS 12:1-9



### PREPARE

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- **PRAY.** Prayer is powerful! Ask the Holy Spirit to speak through the living Word of God to your heart, mind, and soul.



### ENGAGE

Read through the passage.

#### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
  - What is your response? Do you have any questions?
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### APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- What is God inviting you towards?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?
- How can you put faith into action?
- How can you live differently and become more like Christ?



### CLOSING

**LISTEN.** Leave space to allow God's word to soak in, to listen to His voice.

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 **NOTES**

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# LIVING IN GOD'S CALL:

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GENESIS 13:1-18



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# GOD'S COVENANT:

## ABRAHAM

GENESIS 15:1-21



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**NOTES**

# COVENANT REMINDERS:

## ABRAHAM

GENESIS 17:1-21



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# FAITH TESTED:

## ABRAHAM

GENESIS 22:1-19



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# GOD'S PROMISE AND BROTHERLY BETRAYAL: JOSEPH

GENESIS 37:1-28



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# GOD'S FAITHFULNESS, HUMANITY'S FAILINGS:

## JOSEPH

GENESIS 39:1-23



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# PHARAOH NEEDS HELP, GOD PROVIDES:

## JOSEPH

GENESIS 41:9-32



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# FROM INMATE TO SECOND IN COMMAND: JOSEPH

GENESIS 41:33-57



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# DREAMS FROM YOUTH FULFILLED:

## JOSEPH

GENESIS 42:29-38, 43:11-34



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## NOTES

# BROTHERS TESTED, BROTHERS REUNITED:

## JOSEPH

GENESIS 44:1-45:10



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# FAITH-FILLED PERSPECTIVE & RECONCILIATION:

## JOSEPH

GENESIS 50:15-26



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# PRAYING IN PAIN: HANNAH

1 SAMUEL 1:1-20



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# FAITHFUL IN ANSWERED PRAYER: HANNAH

1 SAMUEL 1:21-2:11



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# HEARING AND OBEYING GOD'S VOICE:

## SAMUEL

1 SAMUEL 3:1-21



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# SEEING WITH GOD'S EYES:

## SAMUEL

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13



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# LAMENT AND PRAYER AS ACTS OF FAITH:

## NEHEMIAH

NEHEMIAH 1:1-11



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# PREPARATIONS MADE WITH FAITH:

## NEHEMIAH

NEHEMIAH 2:1-20



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# BUILDING IN THE FACE OF ENEMIES:

## NEHEMIAH

NEHEMIAH 4:1-23



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# MISSION COMPLETED DUE TO GOD'S HELP:

## NEHEMIAH

NEHEMIAH 6:1-16



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# BECOMING QUEEN: ESTHER

*ESTHER 2:1-18*



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 **NOTES**

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# A PLOT REVEALED AGAINST HER PEOPLE:

## ESTHER

*ESTHER 3:1-15*



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# USING HER POSITION FOR GOD'S PURPOSES: ESTHER

*ESTHER 4:1-17*



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## NOTES

# STRATEGY FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS:

## ESTHER

*ESTHER 5:1-8, 7:1-10*



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# SEEING THE TASK THROUGH: ESTHER

*ESTHER 8:1-16*



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# TEMPTED TO COMPROMISE:

## DANIEL

DANIEL 1:1-21



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# STAYING FAITHFUL: SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO

DANIEL 3:13-30



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# TAMING LIONS:

## DANIEL

DANIEL 6:1-22



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# YEAR END REVIEW

## PROFILE OF A DISCIPLE



### WARM-UP

- 1. ASK.** Are you making disciples? If not, why not? What are some ways you personally can make disciples?
- 3. PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What are each of the parts of the Profile of a Disciple?
  - What (or rather, who) is at the center?
  - What spokes radiate from that center?
  - What areas do those spokes partition?
  - What six actions surround the wheel?
  - What's the whole thing ultimately about? (God's Glory)

**GENERAL QUESTIONS:** What does this teach us about God? What does this teach us about people?



### APPLICATION

- How much time do you spend investing in each area - Live, Love, and Lead?
- How do you practice the actions around the rim of the Wheel?
- Do your daily choices reflect the ultimate purpose of Everything?
  - What do you really have as your guiding principle in life?



### WRAP-UP

- In what specific ways are you going to be a better disciple from now on?
- How are you going to apply everything you've learned in the past 27 weeks to your life for the next 29 weeks?
- Who will you share this with this week? Pray for God to continue to teach you about this passage throughout the week.

# RESOURCES

## APPS

- YouBible
- Logos Bible
- Blue Letter Bible
- She Read Truth

## WEBSITES

- Biblegateway.com
- thebibleproject.com
- blueletterbible.org
- biblehub.com



# NOTES



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