

May 5, 2019

LIFEGROUP



GROUPS GUIDE

T H E

V O W

WE HELP PEOPLE FIND & FOLLOW JESUS

Leadership Moment:

**This Leadership Moment is a quick synopsis of the material that we unpacked at our LifeGroup Leader meeting / dinner this past week.*

“LifeGroup Assessment”

As the current semester winds down to a close and groups begin to shift into summer mode, this is a perfect time for your group to:

1. Stay Connected—Even if you take a break for the summer.
2. Try Something Different
3. Assess your group

“Summer provides the perfect time to take a hard look at your group and assess. Where are you at? Where do you want to be? What changes can you make for the fall?”

Consider what God has done in and through your group this year and CELEBRATE! But also take a look at what might be holding you back from experiencing more growth. Assess your leadership and have group members assess their group experience. Is your group accomplishing its mission, or have you strayed from it? If you find any areas that need improvement, spend time creating a game plan to move forward. As you head into fall, you'll be situated for success.”

As you assess how your group is doing and what, if any changes you need to make, first begin by asking the question: **“What is the goal of LifeGroups?”**

While groups are a place to have fun and grow in friendships, the primary goal of a LifeGroup is to help people grow spiritually. You can say it this way: We exist to help people FIND and FOLLOW Jesus.

With that in mind, **take some time this summer and assess where your group members are in their spiritual journey and what you and your group can do to help them take the next step in their spiritual growth.**

Here are three ways to help you assess where group members are in their spiritual growth:

- By paying attention to what is going on in the lives of your group members.
- By listening to what they share during group discussions, specifically when it comes to their struggles.
- By observing how they interact with others within the group and watching for life change.

As you assess and consider what might be a great next step to help your group members continue to grow, consider these potential next steps:

1. A Specific Study: Think through what content your group needs to work through that will help them grow.

2. Another Circle: NMC has a lot of specialized circles, such as Divorce Care, Fresh Start, New Believers (and a lot more than you can learn about at northmetro.org). You may need to encourage your group members to consider jumping into a more appropriate circle for their season of life.

3. Service Project or a Serving Team: Nothing may help you and your group members grow like serving others. A great next step for your group members is to find a place to serve at NMC and as a group, you may want to consider doing a service project together and even finding a place to serve as a group with regularity.

4. Adding Members: Sometimes groups can become inward focused and become stale. Nothing helps add freshness to the group and demonstrates the heart of the Father like inviting others to be a part of your group.

5. Leading: Maybe some of your group members are ready to lead their own group or take on more responsibility within your current group. Maybe all they need is a little encouragement from you.

*If you know of anyone who has the potential and the heart to be a great group leader in the future, please send me their names. I would love to invite them to a New Leader Lunch and Learn on May 19th after church.

Application Questions:

1. Where do you need to celebrate what God has been doing in the lives of your group members?

2. What might be a great next step for your group and group members that will help lead them in FOLLOWING Jesus in making disciples that make disciples?

THE VOW, WEEK 2



Series overview for “The Vow.”

Wedding vows are more than a declaration of love—they hold the keys to a strong, lasting marriage. Whether you hope to get married someday or you’ve already tied the knot, discover what The Vow and specifically the vows of Priority, Pursuit, Partnership and Purity can mean for the future.

Icebreaker Question:

If you are in a relationship, how are you similar and how are you different?

If you are not in a relationship, what do you look for in a significant other?

LifeGroup Discussion Questions: **Don’t feel like you have to get through all the questions below. We create and give you more than you need to ensure that you have all that you need. Feel free to add / takeaway based on the needs of your group.*

The vow of priority for part one of this series was: “God is my One and my spouse is my two.” What action steps have you taken this week to work towards fulfilling that vow?

Read Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:5-6.

What stood out to you about The Vow part 2 and why?

Why do you think God makes marriage such a big deal? What purpose does marriage serve?

Why do you think the following statement is true and what can you do to prevent this from happening in your marriage: “What starts as opposites attract can quickly become opposites attack.”

The big idea from this message was that “Every great marriage needs to move from ME & YOU to WE.”

The following two reasons were submitted as to how a “WE” before “ME” attitude blesses a marriage.

#1 You make better decisions together than apart.

#2 “We” gives you intimacy. “Me” leaves you empty.

How have you experienced the reality of these reasons and what other blessings would you add to the list?

A practical step for working towards WE over ME in your marriage is to take some time to discuss a common vision for your marriage’s faith, finances, family and fun.

-How have you witnessed the lack of unified vision for a marriage in these areas drive a couple apart?

-What stories can you share of how having a common vision in these areas has brought you and your spouse closer?

-Share ideas that you and your spouse have that has brought unity, closeness and life in the areas of faith, finances, family and fun?

What can you do this week to make your marriage “more about WE and less about ME?” And how can the group help you?

WHAT’S AHEAD:

Discussion Guides On the Web: Starting this week, you will be able to access the Sermon Content for your group on the NMC webpage. To access, click on the “Watch Messages” tab on the home page and under each message will be a button to click for Discussion Guides. These guides will be published to webpage by Tuesday after the message was taught.

Sermon Series Schedule: So you can plan ahead as to what content best fits your group, here is a heads up as to the sermon content schedule from now until the summer.

- After The Vow series, we will be back in James until mid-June.
- In late June, we will begin our “At the Movies” summer series.