



## LEADER'S GUIDE

# The Basics

Sermon-based Curriculum is designed to enhance and complement our Pastor's message each Sunday. Your Life Group discussions will be rich as you discuss the primary Scripture passages from the sermon and dig deeper by going to parallel passages. The curriculum is intended to lead you step-by-step through a discussion based on the Pastor's sermon. When you receive the lesson each week, use it as a guide for your group discussion. Simply walk your group through the curriculum question by question.

One of the main purposes of the curriculum is to promote participation in your group and encourage application of spiritual truths. You may find that you do not have time to go through all the questions and verses. Use discernment as you get to know your group members and their spiritual progress.

To help you better prepare for leading, we have provided a commentary on the Gospel of John along with this guide. The commentary, *John: Life Application Bible Commentary* by Grant R. Osborne, will give you further insight into this Gospel. Use it at your discretion to do further research and study on your own in preparation for your group.

**Please note that there will be a one-week delay for your group discussion. Simply put, you will hear Pastor's message on one Sunday and discuss that message the following week.**

## STUDY FORMAT

A *way of life* centered on Jesus Christ is our desire for all believers. We demonstrate this by making disciples and multiplying disciple-makers. The format for the Sermon-based Curriculum will be structured in a manner that will help you, as the leader, train the members of your group to become a disciple of Christ and live a life on mission for Him. We have intentionally structured the curriculum to focus on four major areas of impact:

- **Read the Gospel:** This section should be completed by the members of your Life Group prior to your group meeting. Encourage them to read it during their daily time with God. It will include the focal passage and a brief synopsis of the lesson. This will allow your Life Group members the opportunity to read and meditate on the passage for the week and gain insight on the main truths in the passage.
- **Pray For the Work of the Gospel: DO NOT SKIP THIS SECTION!** Each week, you will use this portion of the lesson to begin your Life Group meeting. It will be a time of focused prayer for your group. Pray with members of your group using these bullet points as your guide:
  1. **Praise** God for His Word and the work that He accomplishes in and through His disciples as we grow together and serve Him.

2. **Repent** from spiritual apathy. Ask the Lord to give group members a renewed love and zeal for God and the advancement of His Kingdom
  3. **Ask** God to give your group a heart for the lost and a desire to live in light of this passion so each person can bring others to Christ.
  4. **Yield** to the Holy Spirit's work as you seek to make disciples and multiply disciple-makers.
- **Engage In the Gospel:** This section will include questions for discussion. There will be a variety of factual, interpretive, and application questions that will help you engage your group and develop an informative and impactful discussion.
  - **Live the Gospel:** Here, you will call the individuals in your group to action. These questions will be quite personal and will challenge the members of your group to take what they have learned and apply it as a *way of life* on mission for Him. You should let your Life Group members know that, as their leader, you will hold them accountable to taking what they have learned through the study and discussion of God's Word and making a life change that will impact the Kingdom of God. Remind them that our goal is to *Make Disciples and Multiply Disciple-makers!* (Sample question: Identify one person this week that you need to invest in for the Kingdom.)

## HOW TO ACCESS THE GROUP STUDY

### Email

On Friday each week, the Life Groups office will email the Group Study to all Life Group Leaders for Augusta and Grovetown. Additional Life Group leaders can be added to this email upon your request. Please contact the Life Groups office at 706.922.7031 or [lifegroups@warrenbaptist.org](mailto:lifegroups@warrenbaptist.org) to ensure that we have a reliable email address for you.

### Online at [WarrenBaptist.org](http://www.warrenbaptist.org) (Available by end of day Friday prior to Sunday message)

- Go to [www.warrenbaptist.org/media](http://www.warrenbaptist.org/media)
- From the Media Page click "Download Group Study" to access the PDF file of the sermon-based curriculum.

### Online at [WarrenGrovetown.org](http://www.warrengrovetown.org) (Available by end of day Friday prior to Sunday message)

- Go to <http://www.warrengrovetown.org/media>
- From the Media Page click "Download Group Study" to access the PDF file of the sermon-based curriculum.

### Life Groups Office

As always, you may stop by the **Life Groups office at Warren Augusta** on Fridays and pick up a printed copy of the Group Study. Before dropping in, we kindly request you contact the Life Groups office at 706.922.7031 so we can serve you better.

Limited printed copies will be available on Sunday mornings in C105 (Augusta Campus) for Life Group members.

## SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR PREPARATION

The Group Study is intentionally designed to be a flexible curriculum that can be utilized in various learning environments. The curriculum can be studied by an assortment of Life Groups with members at various stages on their journey of spiritual maturity. At the same time, the study is designed to be led by a variety of teachers who are at various stages of development as teachers.

When it comes to preparing to teach or actually teaching using this curriculum, we maintain that there is neither a “right way” nor a “wrong way” to accomplish these tasks. We anticipate that as a teacher gains comfort and confidence using this curriculum, his/her preparation and teaching process will evolve. While there is no “right way” to prepare, some teachers may find great benefit in the following approach to weekly preparation.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES TO HELP YOU PREPARE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflect back on Pastor’s morning message.</li> <li>• Identify at least two truths that you will carry forward.</li> <li>• Pray for opportunities to apply the truths of Scripture.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your study throughout the week.</li> <li>• Read the central passage of Scripture for the upcoming sermon and the Leader’s Guide for the upcoming week’s lesson.</li> <li>• Compare various versions and translations of Scripture.</li> <li>• Identify key words and phrases in the passage.</li> <li>• Rewrite the passage using five or fewer words.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for a clear understanding of the central truth of the text.</li> <li>• Ask observational questions about the passage (who, what, when, where).</li> <li>• Identify barriers that may prevent your group’s understanding of the text.</li> <li>• Reference passages of Scripture that support, complement, or clarify this text.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for a fresh vision of the supremacy of God.</li> <li>• Identify universal truths about God that are displayed in this passage of Scripture.</li> <li>• Identify universal truths about mankind that are displayed in this passage of Scripture.</li> <li>• Access the Group Study. (Available on Friday afternoons)</li> <li>• Develop two or three discussion questions based on your study of the text. Email these questions along with the central text or the entire Group Study to your Life Group members so they can begin thinking about the material.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for wisdom in how to apply the truth of this passage.</li> <li>• Ask interpretive questions. (“Why is this important?” “Why would it matter if...?” “How does God expect...?” “How does Jesus fulfill/clarify...?”)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for wisdom to shepherd your Life Group through the lesson.</li> <li>• Read through the section entitled “Read the Gospel.”</li> <li>• Begin to answer questions contained in the “Engage in the Gospel.”</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for those who will receive the Word of God.</li> <li>• Prioritize Group Discussion questions. Which are most important? Which can be omitted?</li> <li>• Develop a roadmap for your Life Group meeting.</li> </ul>

# JOHN THE GOSPEL OF GOD: BELIEVE & LIVE

*John the Gospel of God: Believe & Live* is a 21-week sermon series through the New Testament Gospel of John. In every generation, believers need reassurance about the truth of Christianity. In every generation, unbelievers need a convincing witness of the reality of the Gospel. For the remainder of 2015, Pastor McKinley will lead us through the Gospel of John. The goals of this study are to:

1. **Renew Confidence** in the Message of the Gospel
2. **Recover Clarity** regarding the Person of Christ
3. **Rekindle Affections** for Christ
4. **Release Power** through the Holy Spirit
5. **Refocus Mission** in our Church

To assist your Life Group with planning and scheduling, we have provided an outline of the sermon series below. Using this worksheet, we encourage you to schedule leaders in advance for this study. Taking this step now will allow you and your Life Group leaders the opportunity to prepare well in advance of their assigned teaching date.

## **Outline for John: The Gospel of God**

Supernatural Signs for Christ - John 1-11

Spiritual Life In Christ - John 12-17

Saving Work Of Christ - John 18-21

DATE	PASSAGE	TITLE	LIFE GROUP LEADER
09-AUG	John 20:30-31	Introduction: Believe & Live	
16-AUG	John 1:1-18	The Case for Incarnation	
23-AUG	John 1:19-34	The Case for Substitution	
30-AUG	John 1:31-51	The Case for Justification	
06-SEP	John 2:1-11	Jesus Is God's Joy for Your Disappointments	
13-SEP	John 4:46-54	Jesus is God's Assurance for Your Doubts	
20-SEP	John 5:1-18	Jesus Is God's Strength for Your Disabilities	
27-SEP	John 6:1-15	Jesus Is God's Satisfaction for Your Desire	
04-OCT	John 6:16-21	Jesus Is God's Peace for Your Despair	
11-OCT	John 9:1-41	Jesus Is God's Light for Your Darkness	
18-OCT	John 11:1-57	Jesus Is God's Life for Your Death	
25-OCT	John 12	Honoring Through Giving	
01-NOV	John 13	Serving in Humility	
08-NOV	John 14	Waiting in Hope	
15-NOV	John 15	Abiding in Love	
22-NOV	John 16	Suffering with Joy	
29-NOV	John 17	Overcoming Through Prayer	
06-DEC	John 18:37 & 3:1-8	The Royal Birth	
13-DEC	John 19:2 & 3:9-16	The Crown of Thorns	
20-DEC	John 20:1-10 & 3:16-21	The Living Word	
27-DEC	John 21	When You Need a New Beginning	