

OUR MISSION

Helping people connect to God and to each other in every neighborhood.

Discussion Guide



THE WELL
KINGSBURG

Week 1

At The Well Community Church of Kingsburg, our mission is: **Helping people connect to God and to each other in every neighborhood.**

Read John 15:1-8, John 17:20-23, Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8

OUR STORY

Begin by discussing why your Life Group exists. What is the purpose of the Group? Make a list of the reasons your Group comes up with.

There are many facets to a Life Group. Many people step out in faith and join a Group, only to find out that it is not for them. There are many reasons for this. They may not connect with the Group, they may not get along with everyone, or their schedules may change. One big reason is spiritual maturity; some people are not ready to make a commitment to their spiritual growth. Hopefully they will eventually see God's plan for His people to do life together, but this is something you cannot control.

What you can control is how you do life in your own Group. Sometimes it is good to slow down and get back to the basics. The mission of the Well Community Church of Kingsburg is: **Helping people connect to God and to each other in every neighborhood.** Ultimately, this is why your Life Groups exists. This is your Group's purpose.

Look at the list you created and then at the mission statement. What are the similarities? What are the differences?

GOD'S STORY

There are three major components of the mission statement: helping people connect to God, helping connect people to each other, and doing both of these things in every neighborhood. This is a biblical call to all those who follow Christ, and a few Scriptures about this topic stand out. In John 15:1-8, Jesus gives the illustration of the vine to communicate how people need to be connected to God. Jesus' prayer in John 17:20-23 includes how He wants His people to be one with each other. The third piece of the mission statement – in every neighborhood – comes into focus when looking at Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8 together.

What are your initial takeaways from reading the Scriptures above?

Over the next several weeks, your Group will study each of these passages. The intent this week is not to dig deeply into the passages, just simply become familiar with them. These Scriptures highlight the major aspects of what Jesus charges you to do as His follower. Over the next several weeks, take time to continually read these passages. Study them and meditate on them while keeping the mission statement helping people connect to God and to each other in every neighborhood at the forefront of your mind.

REFLECTION

Take time as a Group to evaluate how your Group is going. Discuss the following questions together.

Has this Group helped you connect to God? In what ways?

How can the Group help facilitate a connection to God in a more powerful way?

Do you all connect with each other? What are some things the Group can do to make deeper, God-honoring connections?

Each Life Group is not going to reach every neighborhood, but every neighborhood can be reached when each Group does their part. You are charged to reach your neighborhood. How are you doing in this area? Who are you reaching in your neighborhood?

Week 2

*Helping people connect to God **and to each other** in every neighborhood.*

Read John 17:20-23

As a follower of Christ, part of your mission in life is to help people connect to each other.

OUR STORY

With work, school, homework, yard work, schoolwork, kids' sports, a friend's crisis, and family gatherings, who has time for anything else? Life is just busy. It rushes on by, and sometimes all you can do is hold on, hoping not to be swept away. There are so many distractions that take you away from your relationship with God. It takes a focused effort to live a life that is glorifying to God.

As a follower of Christ, God desires for you to do life with other believers. You can see in the Acts 2 community how that concept played out in the early church.

Read Acts 2:42-47

What characteristics do you see in this group of new believers?

Of these characteristics, which are found in your Group? In your own life?

There is much to learn from these brand new Christians. Yes, the world is different today, but God's desire for you to do life with other people is unchanged. As you read this passage, and others like it, it is clear that God desires community for His people. It is your responsibility to make it happen in your own life and help it happen in the lives of believers around you.

GOD'S STORY

God's desire for His people to be unified, or one, is unquestionable. John 17 contains what is called The High Priestly Prayer. Jesus's prayer to the Father includes an expressed desire for His followers to be one, as He and His Father are one. In John 17:20-23, Jesus prays specifically for all those who would come to know Him as a result of the message

preached by the apostles. There is no ambiguity in this passage; the focus of His prayer and His desired outcome is for believers to be one.

Jesus' desire for His people to be one has been viewed very differently by people. It's important to realize there are differences between uniformity, union and unity, which is where a lot of disagreements begin. What is clear from Scripture is that He wants believers to be one in order to demonstrate His love to the world. The unity He desires is not institutional, but it should be observable. Believers who are united demonstrate God's love to the world, and as you love other people, God is glorified. Your ultimate purpose in life – to glorify God – is accomplished when you love others.

The beginning of 1 Corinthians 12:13 says, "For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body." This is the undeniable truth that God's Word gives, and it's what Jesus desires for you to demonstrate. As you seek to be Humbly Submitted to Him, you have the responsibility to help make this oneness happen.

REFLECTION

What are you doing to create a healthy space for people to connect to each other, both personally and as a Group?

Why do you think God designed people to live in relationship with others?

What do you anticipate will be the biggest barriers to Relational Health in your Group?
What are some ways you can plan to help overcome those barriers?

Who in your areas of influence – where you live, work and play – can you help get connected to other believers? Discuss your plan for making it happen.

Week 3

*Helping people connect to God and to each other **in every neighborhood.***

You are a vessel that God uses to reach the world.

OUR STORY

There is a distinct difference in how people do community in our culture today as compared to the time of Jesus. The family and the surrounding community played a major role in the lives of people in the first century. There are stories in the Bible of entire families coming to know Jesus at the same time.

Today our society tends to be very individualistic. Unless there is an awareness of this tendency, this individualism can be quite destructive. The effect of today's individualism is a movement away from living a life of Inclusive Community. As you follow Christ and strive to be more like Him, reaching out to those around you has to become your natural tendency, rather than individualism. God wants to reach the world through you. The only way that can happen is if you follow His prompting to reach out everywhere you live, work and play.

GOD'S STORY

Read Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8

What was Jesus communicating to His followers?

How does His message apply to you today?

Read 1 Timothy 2:4 and 2 Peter 3:9

The heart of God is unmistakable. His desire is to reach the entire world. He loves all people, of every race and nation. He wants all humanity to come to know the truth that can only be found in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

What impact do these passages have on you?

These passages aren't talking about universalism, which teaches there are many ways to heaven. God wants everyone to hear and know the truth of the gospel. The only way to have a right relationship with Him is through Jesus Christ.

Simply put, everyone is a sinner, but Christ was perfect. He willingly went to the cross for your sins as the perfect and final sacrifice, and was raised back to life, conquering the grave once and for all. Those who believe this and commit to following Jesus the rest of their lives are saved for all eternity, which is God's desire for everyone. Unfortunately, not everyone believes, and many will reject Him. But that doesn't change God's desire; He wants everyone to be reached.

Helping people connect to God and to each other in every neighborhood is the mission statement of The Well Community Church. This can only happen if everyone works together, and if you pursue your relationship with Jesus more than the things of this world, and move past individualism.

REFLECTION

What is the mission of your Group? Are you focused on a certain neighborhood or a certain cause? If you don't have a clear focus, work together to come up with one.

Are there people you are investing in and inviting into your life? People you pray for, listen to, eat with, serve and share your God Story with?

Who are you praying for as a group?

How are you, both personally and as a Group, living as an Inclusive Community?