

CONNECT GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Comfort My People #4

BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART

How did God use your life this past year? And looking forward, how would you desire the Lord use you? Some people will find this easier to do than others. Use some of these prompts if you see someone struggling to answer either of these questions.

- Ⓞ Whose life did you invest in this last year in a unique way?
- Ⓞ What needs did you help meet this year?
- Ⓞ What new thing did you attempt for God?
- Ⓞ How did you contribute at work through the gifts God gave you?
- Ⓞ Listen to what others share and perhaps that will prompt other ideas . . .



A LOOK AT THE WORD

Comfort in Jesus. As you study the Bible together, feel free to take the lead on how much of this study you have time for and where to focus your efforts based on who is in your group. Remember that these studies are designed knowing that not every group will have time to fully engage with every piece. It may even be helpful to purposefully rotate through which section gets more of your focus from week to week, while still touching on each section with your group.

MY LIFE- OUR MISSION

Have you been challenged, encouraged, or changed your thinking? Pass it on. One approach to the My Life – Our Mission section might be to read all three application sections together and then ask the group to focus on one section for their life this week. Have each person share briefly which application God is challenging them with.

Christ Community Church - Announcements

Christmas ERP Outreach | THIS IS AN REAL AND URGENT NEED! The Emergency Residence Project could really use your help. You can help families living in shelters and transitional housing this Christmas. Donate \$25.00 gift certificates from Wal-Mart, Target, or Aldi's. Donate winter coats, boots, socks, hats or gloves for adults and children. Men's large and X-large, women's medium and large, children's of all sizes are needed. **For more details contact Debbie and Tom Johnson SOON, tdjohnson@mchsi.com, 515 296 2041.**

NEW FAMILIES WHO NEED HELP/Not at ERP

Homeless family Denny Burgduff met at the Perfect Gift. Burgduff's will deliver.

Charlie needs pants 36W/30L and Aldi's cards for food.

Linda needs XL tops, 20-22 size pants and size 11 shoes/boots

Red needs pants 33W/32L, size 11 shoes/boots

Debbie and Tom will deliver to these people

Chris needs pants 36W/30 or 32L, XL to XXL tops, winter clothing

Robert needs pants 34W/30 L, shirts/sweaters size Large

Brian working on needs and sizes

***Deliver to church no later than Wed., December 21 or contact us and we can pick them up from you.



CONNECT GROUP STUDY

Comfort My People #4 – Luke 1, Isaiah 40, Jeremiah 31

Aligned with Sunday's teaching, this Connect Group Study focuses in on the comfort God's Messiah brings to people and to the world: the comfort of (1) a rescue from sin, (2) of a coming reign of blessing, and (3) of the revelation that the Messiah is a holy God, a God who offers the life-giving relationship of Himself.

BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART

Mary's response (Luke 1:46-55) to God desiring to use her to bring the Messiah into the world is remarkable. Despite the difficulty she would face, she was thrilled that God would be pleased to use her in this way. It revealed her own readiness to be used by the Lord no matter what...even though (admittedly) she was a bit surprised! ☺

As you close 2016 and think ahead to 2017, how do you think the Lord might want to use you in a special – perhaps surprising – way? **How did He use your life this past year? And looking forward, how would you desire the Lord use you?** Give that a few minutes thought (think specifically as possible) and share with others in your group. After sharing, take a few minutes to pray for each other about what you've heard.

A LOOK AT THE WORD

Let's take a few minutes to review what was taught in this week's GATHER service -

#1 We can experience the **COMFORT of being RESCUED from SINS** – Luke 1:31 “call him Jesus” (i.e., Jehovah saves)

- When we trust in Jesus, from what PENALTY are we rescued? (**Romans 2:7, 5:9, 6:23**, John 1:29, 3:16,18, cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10)
- When we trust in Jesus, from what POWER are we rescued? (**Ephesians 2:1-3**, Romans 6:15-19) – describe that condition in your own words, and we what we are now freed to do?
- When we trust in Jesus, from what PRESENCE will we be rescued? (**1 Corinthians 15:50-57**, 1 John 3:1-3)

Are you experiencing a growing “rescue” from sin in your life? How do you know?

#2 We can experience the **COMFORT of the Lord's REIGN of BLESSING** – Luke 1:32-34 “give him throne of His father David”

- Notice God's promise to David about his “throne” in **2 Samuel 7:12-16**. What indicates that God is speaking of something more than simply Solomon's (David's immediate son) future reign?
- Read **Psalm 110, then Acts 2:33-35, and then Hebrews 1:13**. What has God (the Father) repeatedly promised He is going to do for David's “Son”?
- HOPE – what are we waiting for? 1 Cor 1:7, **1 Thess 1:9-10** [Do you think about this often?]

#3 We can experience the **COMFORT of a Holy God REVEALING Himself** to us in the Messiah – Luke 1:35

- What does this holy Son of God reveal to us about God's heart? **John 1:9-18**. 3:16
- Why do we need both “truth” and “grace” from the Lord?

Of these three “comfort” blessings, which one especially resonates in your heart? Share “why” with your group.

MY LIFE- OUR MISSION

From this study, you can tell why Christ Community Church wants to CONNECT people to Jesus in a life-shaping way. Full Forgiveness – Future Hope – Life in God Himself.

MY LIFE – We started with a question about how God might want to use you in 2017? Is there someone you know who would be blessed by understanding these COMFORTS God offers in His Son? Why not take a moment to ask God to open up a clear opportunity to share with him/her about this.

YOUR FAMILY – How well do your family members “forgive” each other? Perhaps a review of the “rescue” truths of #1 might be helpful. If God forgives us (cf. Ephesians 4:32 READ IT!)

OUR MISSION - So many people have a skewed view of God. Too few understand how ready God is to rescue them from the penalty and power of sin, which always diminishes the life God wants to give us. We can share what we possess, however. What's your plan to have “God make your day” regularly so that you, like Mary, are prepared to be used by Him in special ways?