



CONNECT GROUP LEADER GUIDE

THEOLOGY #7

BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART

The contentment of your heart. A great thought as you get started this week is the connection between God's provision and your contentment. What is the connection between our contentment with our lot in life and our walk with God? How is our contentment with God's provision connected to our experience of the Holy Spirit flowing through us? I think that often our situational discontentment is the symptom, but the real problem is our struggle to walk in the Spirit in any circumstance.

A LOOK IN GOD'S WORD

Teach us to Pray. In what may be a familiar story, including a famous prayer in the church, take time to notice things about this passage, which may have gone unnoticed in previous readings. Encourage the group to slow down and make those observations before they jump to the easier answers. I found Jesus' answer to this request to 'teach us to pray' very fascinating in understanding how Jesus' views prayer.

MY LIFE- OUR MISSION

Life Questions. One quality of these life questions is that they continually challenge you in your walk with God in any phase of life. When you use these questions for self-evaluation, you will see areas that need your attention but you will also identify some progress you have made as well. We each want to grow in these areas, and yet we will never be fully mature in any of them this side of heaven. For me personally, I am excited to be a part of a church that wants to ask these questions together. I am confident God will do great things through this church body as we individually commit ourselves to pursue Him through the personal disciplines that anchor these life questions.

Christ Community Church - Announcements

Baptism | Take that step of faith and prepare to make the public proclamation of your faith in Christ with many others on Easter Sunday (4/16). Pastor David would love to follow-up with you and let you know what is entailed. Contact Pastor David at dstaff@ccames.org for more info.

40 Days for Life | Join Vicki and Roger Stover in the 40 Days for Life effort beginning March 1. Either sign up in the Atrium [on FEB 26] or contact Vicki and Roger directly [232-4670] to participate in the "Pray to End Abortion" vigil at the Planned Parenthood office or to provide important prayer support.

Quest Men's Retreat | MAR 3-5 at Pine Lake Christian Camp [Eldora]. What to expect: focused, brief teaching sessions, time for solitude/prayer/reflection, and time for fellowship and outdoor activities. For more info or to sign up visit www.iowaquest.com.

Contemplative Retreat for Women | A weekend [Friday night-Saturday afternoon] to get away and spend quiet time praying and reflecting with the Lord. This weekend will be at the Rock River Retreat Center the weekend of APR 21, led by Allison Greenwald [agreenwald@gmail.com]. Brochures are available at the Start Here desk.

SERVE | Donations for Bolivia | A team will be in Bolivia MAR 9-20 taking donations for Talita Cumi orphanage. Current needs: tennis shoes, sizes to fit ages 4-18 for girls and boys; soccer balls; and books in Spanish (Magic Tree House, Dr. Seuss and Spanish bibles for children and young adults). Donations can be dropped off at the Start Here desk. Additional needs coming soon. Contact Peggy Best with questions - 515-460-1611.



SERIES: The-o-logy: I Am What I Believe about God
GOD and My Abundant Resources #7 February 2 - March 4, 2017

This week's Gather teaching(02/26/17) explored what we believe about the abundant resources for life provided by our Father: My Father's WORD (Matthew 4:3-4), my Father's Spirit (Luke 11:1-13) and my Father's discipline (Hebrews 12:3-11). Jump in as a CONNECT GROUP into the study below!

BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART

In 2016, the world's human population is 7,400,000,000 (7.4 billion). 800,000,000 each day do not have enough food to sustain an active life. 790,000,000 do not have access to clean water. 2.5 billion (over 1/3 of the world's population) do not have adequate, healthy sanitation.

Did you grow up in a family that provided well for you? Take a moment to **LIST the things your parent(s) made sure you had day-in, day-out.** Then look at your list. Share with your group your answers to: Why was it important for your parent(s) to provide these things? As you look back, did they provide too much? Or, was there anything essential missing?

Finally (and be HONEST with this one) – Do you feel God adequately provides for you? Too much? Anything missing?

A LOOK IN GOD'S WORD

For 30 minutes, let's focus on one of God the Father's provision for us – **Our Father's SPIRIT**. Turn in Scripture to **Luke 11:1-13**. Have someone read the passage for everyone to hear. Begin by answering the following questions:

- What is happening here?
- What do the disciples want to happen?
- Why do you think they are making this request?

Now, looking again into this passage, spend (at least) 15 minutes on each of the following questions (have someone take notes on what is shared as each question is discussed).

QUESTION A – What in the verses of this episode illustrates or expresses our LIFE QUESTIONS? [for example, can you find "Did God make my day?" illustrated, expressed, or taught in these verses]

#1 Is the Spirit flowing through me?

** experiencing God's power, Christ defining my life, Spirit doing what I alone could not?*

#2 Did God make my day?

** time with God on my daily calendar, time in word and prayer, Jesus' return shaping priorities?*

#3 Who shares my tough stuff?

** any 2 AM friends, asking me the hard questions, with whom accountable?*

#4 With whom am I fishing?

** impacting another generation, seeking and offering life-shaping counsel, doing ministry with?*

#5 How worn is my welcome mat?

** relationships only with people with whom comfortable, praying for neighbors by name, inviting people to take next step with Jesus?*

#6 How are my investments doing?

** multiplying my spiritual influence, investing the resources God has placed in my hands?*

QUESTION B – How did Jesus fulfill his disciples' request (cf. 11:1)? In other words, how did Jesus' response teach them to pray? How were they to pray, and what result was to happen in their lives?

FINISH – have the note-taker recap the observations and lessons you discovered together as you answered the questions.

MY LIFE- OUR MISSION

MY LIFE – David says in Psalm 23, "The Lord is my shepherd; I have *everything* that I need." Jesus taught in Luke 11 that the Father is eager to give us the best gift of all... "the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him." Do you think Luke 11:13 encourages us to more intentionally ask the Father for "more" of the Spirit's "flowing" in our lives? Your life?

YOUR FAMILY – At a dinner table this week, review the 6 LIFE QUESTIONS. Explore with your family members their understanding of what each question means. Which question(s) resonate best with you...and your kids? Do you think it might help to discuss these together as a family each week?

OUR MISSION – Our LIFE QUESTIONS help us assess if our every-day walk with God is engaging in our church's mission. The more regular our meeting with God, the more we ask for the Spirit's flowing presence, the more we share our tough stuff with spiritual accountability partners, the more we "put out the welcome mat" to people not yet in God's family...well, the more the Lord *connects people to life-defining relationships in Christ*. Right? Let's lean into our Father's provisions, and these great questions, together!!