



## CONNECT GROUP LEADER GUIDE

### *Radical #3 – Radically Purposeful*

#### **BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART**

**Radical with purpose.** This section challenges your group to think and talk about what things you do on purpose as compared to the things that you may stumble into as if by accident. Even if someone in your group does not have a list of goals they have set out to accomplish, they still probably have unspoken goals that they are pursuing. Encourage people to share what they are going after; what they have set their face toward. If anyone has a tough time coming up with some goals, encourage them to set some goals for their spiritual growth using the “My Life Questions” as a great place to start.

#### **A LOOK IN GOD’S WORD**

**What does the Bible say about God strengthening us?** This is an interesting study that most of us have probably not put a lot of thought into before. Encourage your group to wrestle through it together and allow God’s Word to inform your answers when you aren’t sure what to say. Assure the group that you’ll give each other grace as you work to understand how these passages help us understand God’s strengthening of us. David’s statement at the beginning of the My Life Our Mission section helps to provide a framework for answering the questions from this study of the Bible.

#### **MY LIFE- OUR MISSION**

**Encouraged to be a part of Christ Community . . .** When people want to know where to go at Christ Community, we encourage them to Gather in worship, Connect in a group, and Serve with a team. Some in your group may be more or less involved in one of these 3 areas, so strengthen each other by sharing how you have been encouraged to grow through these 3 strategies.

### **Christ Community Church Announcements**

Come hear from our **Bolivia mission team** | Sunday, APR 9 at 4:30 in room C 3/4 as they share about their recent trip to Santa Cruz. This team of 10 from Christ Community is eager to share with you about their experiences - great stories guaranteed! **Thank you** From the Talita Cumi staff: "WOW the shoes and books are such a blessing. It was like Christmas opening up all the suitcases. Thanks is such a small word to express our hearts. We are praising God for your generosity and love to the children of Talita Cumi." Thank you for being the hands and feet [and shoes] of Jesus!

**Thanks to everyone who has donated to our Third Place Housewarming project!** If you still have items to donate, you can drop them off at the kiosk in the atrium today or next Sunday [APR 9]. If you have questions, contact Debbie Johnson at [tdjohnson@mchsi.com](mailto:tdjohnson@mchsi.com). Thanks for your radical generosity toward those in need!

**White Cross** | Monday, APR 10, 9:30a - 2:30p in Connect 8/9. Help prepare necessary supplies for Tandala Hospital, Elikya Training Center, and Global Fingerprints Orphans we support in Congo. All are welcome. Come for as long as can. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy fellowship on our lunch break. Questions? Contact Annette Miller [[quiltbear@gmail.com](mailto:quiltbear@gmail.com) or 232-9162]

**Fall trip to Bolivia** | we will be taking a group to Bolivia this fall [probably SEP] to do a clean water project. If you have ever considered joining a Bolivia team, we would love to answer any questions. You can contact James Carlat [[jacarlat@gmail.com](mailto:jacarlat@gmail.com)].

Did you know Christ Community Ames has a "**Caring Fund**"? We have the privilege of serving hundreds in our community through the Caring Fund ministry. Residents of Ames who qualify can receive financial assistance with rent, utilities and related living expenses. This fund allows us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community. When giving online, simply select "Caring Fund". When writing a check, please include "Caring Fund" in the memo line. Special envelopes can also be found at the Start Here desk. See also our web site under GIVE.



## Connect Group Study for RADICAL #3

### *Radically Purposeful: The Determination of the Savior*

This week's teaching focused our attention on the remarkable determination of our Savior and Lord. By the Holy Spirit, he would not be deterred from going to the place of his rejection, sacrifice and resurrection. And along the way, he was determined to accomplish His Father's bidding. The Lord continues to be determined to accomplish things in our lives as his children/disciples. This study explores His objectives with us.

### BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART

Luke 9:51 says "Jesus set his face to journey to Jerusalem." Translation? He had a determination to make this happen. It speaks about having a clear goal in mind, and taking steps toward that goal.

What goals do you currently have going on? Toward what have you "set your face"? Share 2-3 of your key goals with your group, and perhaps some of the steps that demonstrate your determination to achieve them.

Ask: Do you think your Heavenly Father has any goals in mind for you? Can you name 1-2?

### IN THE WORD

KNOW THIS! The Lord is determined to accomplish some wonderful things as you walk with Him through this life. Specifically, he wants to STRENGTHEN YOU! What does this mean, and how does He do it? Thanks for letting God "make your day" by exploring these things in this study. Grab your Bible. Here we go.

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT GOD IS OUT TO STRENGTHEN ME?

- Where does God strengthen us and what is the result? Ephesians 1:14-19
- What does Ephesians 6:10-18 teach about how we can be strong disciples?
- What did Paul expect God could do for the young Thessalonian Christians (1 Thess 3:11-13)
- OK...summarize. From the passages read, complete this sentence – "A spiritually strong Christian is...."

#### HOW DOES GOD STRENGTHEN US? Find the "how" in the following passages –

- Acts 18:18-22 – What do you think Paul was doing in the last phrase of vs. 23?  
(if you have time, look at how Prisca and Aquila strengthened Apollos, Acts 18:24-28)
- 1 Thess 2:17-3:3 – Talk about Paul's heart and why he sent Timothy
- Describe the strengthening you hear going on in Philipians 2:19-30.

Wrap up – What have you discovered about GETTING STRONGER – what it is, how it happens?

### MY LIFE, OUR MISSION

You can see why CCC emphasizes its mission – *to connect people to life-defining relationships in Christ*. Yes, God wants to make us stronger as His children and Jesus' disciples, but He purposely makes that strengthening happen through Christ-centered relationships and interaction. Take a moment and review the kind of strength you experience through our 3 key strategies

**GATHER** – what do you find strengthening about regularly attending CCC's worship services?

**CONNECT** – what do you find helpful and strengthening in the group you meet with?

**SERVE** – what do you find life-giving and strengthening about your place of service?

*Thanks for praying together for the fruitfulness of the upcoming Easter season!*