

CONNECT GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Like Jesus #5 – Counsel Like Jesus

BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART

Counseling and you. Think of a few follow up questions on the topic of which portrayals of counseling you have enjoyed. What is your first impression when you hear the word “counseling”? How is counseling typically depicted in movies and tv shows? How is that different from this biblical idea of counseling? I think it is also important to talk about both your experiences in needing good counsel and any opportunities to give counsel to those you care about. Talk about both angles with your group.

A LOOK IN GOD’S WORD

Counsel like Jesus: Discuss this messy journey of becoming like Christ as forgiven sinners and the role that good counsel plays in that. A good study of a passage that isn’t incredibly familiar to most. 2Peter 1:3-4 reminds us that in calling messy sinners to himself God has also granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness by the divine power that comes through a relationship with Jesus. In Christ we have everything we need to live a life that honors God. That is true, and yet we all know that the struggle with our sinfulness and tendency to wander is a real thing.

MY LIFE- OUR MISSION

We need each other: There are some great discussion questions here to help you apply the truth of this passage in your real lives. Make sure you save plenty of time for this discussion, I think it is a very important one for most groups and where I would spend most of my time this week.

Christ Community Church Announcements

Offer a Father’s Day Faith Story | This Father’s Day, JUN 18, we’d like to share one of those stories about fathers from our own church body. This time around we are particularly interested in hearing from someone whose walk in Christ has been made clearer, stronger, and more impactful because of the faithfulness of a father. Interested in knowing more? Contact Pastor Wayne at wstewart@ccames.org before Sunday, Jun 4.

Nursery/Early Childhood Positions | Christ Community Church is accepting applications for a PT Nursery Coordinator and a PT Early Childhood coordinator. See [www.ccames.org] descriptions and applications.

Summer CM Volunteer Needs [for more on these programs go to www.ccames.org]

Sundays: In the summer, Christ Community's Children's Ministry requires 40 people to ensure our rooms are safe and effective. We need volunteers beginning MAY 28-AUG 20, 9a or 10:45a, for ages birth-5th.

Summer FM: JUN 7, 14, 21, 28; 6-7:45p. Volunteers are needed in the kitchen and to clear food tables [perfect small group service activity!].

Thrive: JUN 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, & 29. Volunteers are needed to accompany small groups of kids to sessions. Drivers are also needed for Thrive.

Contact Karen H. [karenwhat@yahoo.com] or Amy Baker [abaker@ccames.org]

Connect Group Study

Series: Like Jesus

Counsel Like Jesus—May 21, 2017

BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART

On the topic of you and counseling...

- What portrayals of counseling have you enjoyed the most and why? The Bob Newhart Show, Frasier, What About Bob, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Thirteen Reasons Why, others?
- Do you see yourself as one who gives counsel or listens well to others?
- Even if not, share briefly about a time that you did give someone counsel, encouragement, or hope by listening and/or sharing. What was the result, or how did that make you feel?

A LOOK IN GOD'S WORD

On being confident in the sufficiency of Scripture...

- Read **2 Peter 1:3-4** out-loud together. Read at least two versions (It's a "wordy" verse!)
 - Verse 3 says that we, by virtue of God's power, have been given *everything* we need for life and godliness, a Christ-like life. Do you think God's power and Word are necessary for effective counseling, for changed, Christ-like lives? Why or why not?
 - In verse 4 we see that God's precious and very great promises enable us to become partakers of the divine nature (again, to be Christ-like). What would be one or two gospel promises that are precious and very great to you? (for example, forgiveness, acceptance, the righteousness of Christ credited to our account, empowerment by His grace and Spirit, etc...)
 - The acrostic **F.A.R.E.** (based on **Is. 55:1-2**, NIV) is represented by the four gospel truths above that help us understand who we are in Christ. "Preach the gospel to yourselves" by taking a moment to thank God aloud for these and other gospel realities in your life.

MY LIFE—OUR MISSION

On being on mission in a transparent way...

- One of our four values at Christ Community church is "transparent relationships: creating a culture of humility, acceptance, and grace".
 - What, if anything, has made transparency with others difficult for you in the past?
 - Discuss what humility, acceptance, and grace looks like in a healthy Connection Group.
 - What would it take for your Connection Group to grow in transparency?
- **James 5:16** is a challenging "One-Another" verse: "Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed."
 - Either as a group together, or with men and women separated into two groups, share a personal struggle with each other and then pray for one another.
 - Commit individually and as a group to be more real with one another, and to make every effort to respond with grace and truth.