

LIFE GROUP LEADERS GUIDE
The Joy of Being God #12 – “The Joy of Doing Good”

Tips for Leaders

As pastors in Everyday Church we should concern ourselves with the journey that people are on towards Jesus. Everyone has a ‘next step’ in their life’s journey with him. And we can help someone grow as a disciple of Jesus by helping them discern what that next step is towards the ultimate goal of becoming more and more like Jesus. A journey of 1,000 miles starts with a single step. So, when you consider your applications from this Life Group meeting help people to discern what their next step is. Focusing on the next little bit they need to do to become more like Jesus. The more specific the better.

CONNECT IN with one another

- What is the kindest thing that somebody has done for you recently? Describe how it made you feel.

CONNECT UP with God

- Ask somebody to read Psalm 23:6, Psalm 33:5 and Titus 3:4-5. Take some time to reflect on God’s even greater kindness to you. Spend some time worshipping God together. [*Leaders note: this could be through sung worship or prayer.*]
- A few weeks ago we celebrated the 500 year anniversary of the Reformation, in which Martin Luther taught that we are saved by grace through faith alone. Compare this teaching with the words of James 2:20-26. How do we reconcile what Martin Luther taught alongside what James says in this passage? [*Leaders note: There isn’t actually a contradiction here. We’ve often unhelpfully abbreviated what Martin Luther actually said. What he taught was that we are saved by faith alone, but that the faith that saves can never remain alone. It manifests itself in a changed life, including doing good works.*]
- Read and discuss together the following three passages. In what ways do they encourage and challenge you?
 - Jeremiah 32:40-41 [*Leaders note: God the Father delights to do good to us.*]
 - Acts 10:37-38 [*Leaders note: Jesus the Son went around doing good to everyone.*]
 - Philippians 2:12-13 [*Leaders note: God’s Spirit works in us to give us the desire and power to do good ourselves.*]

CONNECT OUT with the non-church people around you

- Please read Ephesians 2:8-10. What do these verses tell us about the good works we are to perform? [*Leaders note: We are saved by faith, not by our good works, but God has prepared good works for each of us to do to bring him glory as we work out the implications of our salvation.*]
- List of some of the good works that God has prepared for us all to do. [*Leaders note: These can be general e.g. care for the poor, feed the hungry etc...*]
- Make a second list of some of the specific good works that you believe God has prepared for you to do personally. [*Leaders note: If your group is struggling with this, help them think through the needs that are in front of them and what good they might do to help e.g. care for an elderly neighbour or support a struggling colleague.*]
- Are there any good works that you believe God has prepared for you to do as a Life Group together?
- Move into a final period of prayer, in which you pray for each individual to receive the *desire* and the *power* to do the good works God has prepared for them personally, and in which you pray for your Life Group to receive the *desire* and the *power* to do the good works God has prepared for you together. [*Leaders note: End by commissioning the group to go out and to please God by doing good works in Jesus’ name.*]