



Dear LifeGroup Leader,

Do you have goals for your LifeGroup this Fall?

Today I'd like you to spend a minute or two thinking about yourself as a leader. How are you doing? Do you feel exhausted? Energized? Equipped? What is one question or curiosity you have about your group and your role as a leader?

I encourage you to settle on one goal you might have for this Fall. Write it down if you must. See if you can focus your goal on something you can directly control and measure in your group time. For example, you're going to end on time each week, or you're going to schedule 3 potlucks with your LifeGroup before Thanksgiving.

Feel free to share this goal with the group. Have them keep you accountable (and offer forgiveness!) for this way God is stretching and growing you.

How can I support you?

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Imagination

Imagine the Redemption

Imagination is our ability to clearly envision a specific reality. Without imagination, we're caught in "the way things are", the status quo, the cultural milieu. But what if we were to allow ourselves to clearly envision a new way of being, a new way of relating, a new way of living in our world together? The epistles of John invite us to do just that. We're invited to imagine a life in which our sin isn't present, and also in which true forgiveness is abundant.

FOCAL POINT: Paradoxically, we are invited to imagine a life without sin, and a life of abundant forgiveness.



Getting Started

Catch up together about how your week has been, possibly also revisit last week's meeting.

- ▶ As a kid, what was your concept of "sin" or "wrong"? What behaviors/attitudes were you told to stay away from?



Exploring Scripture

Read the following passage together.

1 John 2:1-2

- ▶ Where do you hear God's heart in this passage?
- ▶ What words or phrases stick out to you?



Reflection

Take time to reflect together about the passage.

- ▶ John holds these 2 realities in tension: our path toward faithfulness and maturity, and also our tendency to return to old and destructive ways. To both of these he offers hope. You can grow, and you can accept forgiveness from God. Which of these, in this time in your life, do you struggle with most? Why?



Praxis

With the understanding that we gathered here are the body of Christ, let's allow the truth from today's scripture to impact us as a LifeGroup.

- ▶ John writes these words not to an individual, but to a church community, built to support each other in their striving for faithful and Christ-like living. Let's take time to look at the ways we might support each other in a similar way.
 - ▶ What spiritual or personal goals do you have for yourself this Fall?
 - ▶ How can we be a support to you in that goal? What would you like from us in terms of encouragement and grace?
 - ▶ Let's make a point to check in with each other concerning these goals. Let's also lift up each other in prayer, asking for God's spirit to guide us.



Moving Outward

Challenge each other to live out God's truth this week.

- ▶ How might you encourage one other person in your LifeGroup concerning a goal they named tonight?

1 John 2:1-2

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.