



Dear LifeGroup Leader,

Giving is an important aspect of a LifeGroup.

You are not "just" a Bible study - you are the church. You - your group - is the church. Do you ever give that much thought? Your LifeGroup is the hands and feet of Jesus to each other and to your neighborhood.

There are 3 things I'll ask if you tell me your LifeGroup isn't doing well: When was the last time you had a party? When was the last time you worshipped together? When was the last time you served together? Because when you serve together, you live out the divine calling that the church is to be a blessing to its neighbors.

That's why I want you to make a plan this week. Plan a time to serve together in some way.

-Connor



Imagination

Imagine the Generosity

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? John asks us to imagine a new and radical way of living generously. Because Jesus laid down His life for us, we also ought to give generously to our neighbors so that we can all flourish together. This challenges us to think of love not as words or intentions, but as tangible actions.

FOCAL POINT: Loving our neighbors means deciding what we can do to participate in the flourishing of the Kingdom of God around us.



Getting Started

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

- ▶ Who is the most generous person you know?



Exploring Scripture

Read the following passage together.

1 John 3:16-18

- ▶ 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.

- ▶ This passage likely stirs several feelings as we take in its message. What feelings does this bring up in you? Why?
- ▶ John is addressing the importance of love not as simply "caring about", but "taking-care-of". What things in your life do you maybe only "care about", but not "take-care-of"?



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.

- ▶ This Sunday we told stories together about what God is doing in and through Montrose Church to affect our neighbors both in LA and around the world. We talked about what we could each contribute to participate more fully in the joy and restoration God is bringing in our world. While we each consider our contributions individually, it might be good for us to also talk through what we might be able to do as a LifeGroup together.
- ▶ What ministries spoke to you as you listened this Sunday? What do you wish you could get more involved in?
- ▶ What resources do we have to offer? What talents? What events could we jump into?



Moving Outward

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

- ▶ Let's make a plan to give to a ministry together as a LifeGroup.

1 John 3:16-18

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.