

Suffering (adversity) is a part of Life. 1 Peter. 4:12

One Foot in Reality:

Instead of ignoring it, I will face it honestly—with humility. Psalm 25:17-21

Name your trouble. _____

Understand God's position toward you

- He is a loving father. Matthew 7:7-11
- He is your advocate. 1 John 2:1-2

One Foot in Hope:

Instead of withdrawing, I will share my life.

Galatians 6:2; Philippians 3:7-8;

I will fix my thoughts on God.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

My joy isn't based on what happens to me, but what God is doing in me and through me.

I will keep a right perspective.

We don't have to worry about what will happen when we know who's in charge. Philippians 4:6-9; Philippians 2:17

I will worship fully and acknowledge all that God is doing. Luke 17:12-17

Food for Thought Questions for this weeks' Life Groups

Review these questions in preparation for participating in a Life Group. All the questions may not be covered in their entirety. Prayer and connecting with each other are vital parts of spiritual growth.

How do you typically handle unexpected events in your life?

Read Philippians 4:1-23.

Paul shows us in Philippians 4 that we don't have to worry because God is in charge and He is the only one that can satisfy us.

How has worry influenced your thoughts and actions?

Why do we so often allow ourselves to be consumed by worry?

What's keeping you from giving your worries over to God?

Read Phillipians 1:1-30: We don't have to understand the "why" to trust God with "what" is happening to us.

What is something you wish was different in your life?

How would a change of perspective help?

What difficult situation are you currently enduring in which you're struggling to understand why it's happening?

What keeps you from changing your perspective during difficult times?

Read Matthew 7:7-12

What did Jesus say will happen if we bring our requests to Him? (7:7)

What happens when we seek in Christ's name? (7:7)

What is true about the character of even the best human parent? (7:11)

What is the likelihood of God giving His praying children what they need? (7:11)

SHARE LIFE: Make a commitment to pray for one another this week.

Prayer request: Take time as a group to prayer for one another.

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word. (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). Here's how it will happen:

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal, as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

SERVE

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.