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**It's not our love but God's love that truly leaves a mark**

**You have to remain to receive.** John 15:4-5

**Promises for those who remain in Christ:**

- **You will bear spiritual fruit.** John 15:5
- **You will possess spiritual power.** John 15:7

**You remain by remaining in:** Gods word, community with believers, consistent prayer, faithful service.

**Love is not what God does, but who God is!** 1 John 4:8

**We are marked by his love when we:** John 15:9-12

- **When we value ourselves rightly.** Romans 5:8, Ephesians 2:10
- **When we love others.** 1 John 4:10-11, Matthew 25: 31-46
- **When others remark on how we love.** John 13:33-35

**Welcome to the Spring Quarter of Life Groups!**

This week we kick off our Spring Life Group quarter. Your first meeting will have a time to get acquainted with new members. The homework has been shortened this week to allow ample time to accomplish each of this.

To prepare for this week's meeting, take some time to focus on the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group. Have a great first meeting as you come together to connect and encourage one another to grow and to see God change your lives from the inside out!

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### **GETTING TO KNOW YOU**

1. Some of us love surprises, while others of us would prefer to see something coming even if the "surprise" is something positive. Which side of the spectrum do you tend to fall on?

2. If you could know certain things about your future (like when you're going to die, who you will marry, what your kids will do in the future, major illnesses you'll have, etc.) would you want to know that information? What would be some benefits and drawbacks from knowing that information?

### **GOING DEEPER**

What about this week's message challenged you, stirred questions, brought about action?

## THE PURPOSE OF LIFE GROUPS

**Read John 15:1-17.** Jesus tells His disciples the parable of the vine and the branches in this passage.

What are some of the consequences you have experienced as a result of not staying connected to the vine?

Where do you need more of God's power in your life?

How different do you think your life would be if you developed a deeper connection with God?

Which of the four different ways to remain in Christ do you need to focus on?

Love is Action

Read James 2:14-17

How should our faith be demonstrated?

Read Matthew 25:31- 46

Who are some of the overlooked people in your life?

How can you put love into action toward others?

Talk as a group about doing a service (love) project together during this spring life group session.

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.