

**Two stories, two wrong paths**

**The problem with the land of Egypt:** Genesis 12:10 –20

1. Going outside of the promise.
2. Fear rules.
3. Return back to where God blesses.

**The problem with the land of “my way”.** Genesis 16:1 -16

1. Never solve problems God has already answered.
2. Beware unintended consequences.
3. Trust waits.

**What to do when you find yourself in the wrong land.**

1. Make a course correction. Repent
2. Return to God and His way. Confess
3. Live in the land of God’s blessing. Receive
4. Celebrate your friendship with God. Worship

**Food for Thought**

For the week of January 24, 2016

Welcome to winter session of Life Group. Complete the following questions; be ready to learn together with your group. Expect God to speak to you.

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Q: Who do I desire to see draw closer to God?

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Q: Who needs a loving invite back to church?

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**Going Deeper**

Over and over again, Genesis has shown us examples of how things unravel when people become tired of following God’s plan and start doing their own thing. At times, we all are tempted to do the same thing, especially when God’s plan isn’t working out the way we had hoped or expected it to. How does James 4:13-17 highlight the danger of letting our own plan for our life supersede God’s?

What do the following verses tell us about how to place God at the forefront of any plans we have?

Proverbs 3:5-6

Proverbs 16:3

Matthew 6:31-33

Sometimes the issue isn't that we're avoiding what God wants us to do, it's not knowing what God's will is. How can the following Scriptures give direction when God's will isn't clear to us?

Colossians 3:17

1 Corinthians 10:23-24, 32-33

1 Peter 4:10-11

Patience can be difficult in that we often don't want to invest the time or energy it takes to become patient. Part of learning this key spiritual skill is enduring frustrations and hardships. What encouragement can be taken from the following verses in terms of being patient and enduring hardships?

Romans 5:3-5

James 1:2-4, 12

How have you seen this progression played out in your life or in the life of someone you know?

## **THE PURPOSE OF LIFE GROUPS**

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful relationships with Jesus and each other through the study of God's Word (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25)

Here's how we accomplish this in our community:

### **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.