

Being a loyal friend is a blessing. Genesis 21:22-23

- How are you known?

Show you are a friend of God by your story not your title.

- Have a heart for those far from God. Genesis 18:26-33
(*Stand in the Gap. Prayer accomplishes much*)
- Live-out and pass on, the two greatest decisions of life.

Marking the promise then and now. Genesis 17:7-7; Matthew 28:19-20; Matthew 3:13-17; Acts 2:41, 8:12, 10:47-48; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:3-10; Colossians 2:12

Circumcision

Baptism

- **What is it?**
- **Why do it?**
 - **Obedience**...Jesus commanded
 - **Identification**....Death he is the example. Why not?
 - **Washing**....Reminds us of the sin washed away
 - **Celebration**Rejoice together what Christ has done.
- **Why now?**

Life Group Study

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.

My Story

As we have studied Abraham's life over the past weeks, we have seen how he changed and how his character grew over the years. Looking back on your own life, can you think of how who you are has changed? If so, explain.

How are you known?

When you were growing up, what was your understanding of baptism? How has your understanding grown?

Going Deeper

None of us want to leave a legacy of being known by our possessions or titles. That's why the enemy works subtly, yet powerfully, to blind us to the benefits and simplicity of generosity and serving others. What motivations and/or strategies do the following verses give to encourage us to be generous and serve others?

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Galatians 6:9-10

Matthew 25:31-36, 41-46

Our righteousness (doing the right thing) affects other people. The reality is that what we do or say will often affect and influence those around us just as it did in Abraham's time. King Solomon had great influence in his life. What attitudes do you see reflected in his prayer in 1 Kings 3:7-10 that could help explain why he had such great influence?

Why do you think those attitudes are important for having a positive influence?

Can you think of any reasons why we all seem to struggle with consistently having these attitudes?

Read Romans 6:3-8. You were buried with Christ in baptism (or will be). Your old nature is dead. You have life in Christ. Describe what that means to you daily.

Besides your baptism, in what other ways do you *regularly* make a public stand for Christ? What difference should it make in our behavior if we believe that our *old self is truly* dead and gone? How would *truly* believing that the resurrected Christ now lives in us transform our lives?

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.