Week of November 29th

**Neighbourhood Groups Leader’s Guide**

LEADERSHOP

**Pray** for insight as you begin to prepare for leading your group. Ask for God’s wisdom, that the Holy Spirit will be the teacher and that you will be God’s instrument to lead the group to greater understanding and a willingness to commit to becoming more like God. Prayer should be your primary source of personal preparation for leading your group.

PLEASE ANNOUNCE that if anyone wants to be baptized to let you (their leader) know. We are willing (and want to) baptized people through December. If they let you know they want to be baptized please forward the information to Dawn Martell or Pastor John.

PLEASE ALSO announce the CHRISTMAS MISSIONS TREE. When giving money to Missions in December ornaments will be put on the Christmas tree in memory of loved ones or to draw attention to a favorite scripture. When giving to Missions mark on your offering envelope or memo line the scripture or loved one you want to be remembered.

MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

**DON’T JUMP RIGHT IN –** ask people how their week went? See how everyone is handling the increased restrictions that are in effect until December 17th? Just generally find out how people are doing and what they are up to.

**OPENING COMMENTS –** On the weekend Pastor John began the series “MORE THAN A HOLIDAY.” In it he talked about how important timing is and that Jesus came at just the right time. Let’s read a couple of verses about timing in the Bible.

Get your group to read 1 Peter 5:6 and 2 Corinthians 2:6 from a few versions.

**HOW TO USE THE QUESTIONS -** Some questions are lumped together deliberately to help you keep the discussion going. **In those sections only ask one question at a time (or maybe two**) but save the rest to keep the discussion

**STARTING QUESTIONS**

What stuck out to you from the teaching last weekend? What has the Holy Spirit been speaking to you about?

**APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

**THESE QUESTIONS ZERO IN ON HOW TO APPLY WHAT WAS TAUGHT TO OUR LIVES. ONE OF THE GOALS OF OUR GROUPS IS TO MOVE CHRISTIANS BEYOND BEING STUDENTS OF SCRIPTURE TO BEING DOERS OF THE WORD (DISCIPLES).**

1. While you are waiting on God’s perfect timing, God wants us to: fear not, fret not, forget not (God’s word), and faint not (don’t give up). How do we put this advice into practice? Ask them what they have learned that has worked for them?Some verses you could use during this time are: **Fear not: Mark 5:36, Psalm 31:14-15, Psalm 69:13; Fret not: Psalm 37:7-8, Philippians 4:6, 1 Peter 5:6; Forget not: James 1:25, Psalm 1:1-3; Faint not: Galatians 6:9.**
2. What do you think Dallas Willard was getting at when he said “I am thoroughly convinced that God will everyone into heaven who, in his considered opinion can stand it.”
3. Why do you think are there delays in life?

POSSIBLE ANSWERS: Delays occur to 1) test our faith and 2) grow our character. Share a time you experienced a delay you now realize resulted in growth.

*I trust in you Lord. You are my God and my times are in your hands.* Psalm 31:14-15 (NIV)

1. What did you once worry or fret about that turned out to arrive at just the right time after all?

NOTE - God is outside of time. He’s never in a hurry and he’s never late but from our limited Earth-bound time perspective, we don’t see that.

Do you think people ever give up on their dreams because it takes longer than they expect. **Read Habakkuk 2:3.** How would we handle our dreams if we could see them the way God does?

*At the right time I will answer your prayers!* Isaiah 49:8 (NCV)

There are 700 years between Isaiah 53 and Christ dying on the cross for us.

Most of us have trouble waiting for things for one year.

1. Why do we find it hard to wait for God’s perfect timing?
2. Get someone to read **Acts 3:19. “Now is the time to change your ways.”** Why do people put off changing their lives and accepting His salvation? Did any of you struggle with giving in to God?

**CLOSING – Take time to pray for each other and needs in your group. Pray that Christmas will be more than a holiday for us but we will all think**

**About God’s great love for us and the reason Jesus came to the world.**