GATEWAYCHURCH

# // groups guide

December 15, 2024 | BEHOLD | John 1:19-34 | Jon Damon

One of our goals at Gateway is to move people from "Rows to Circles." It can be impossible to truly connect on a Sunday morning in a room full of people. However, we desire all of our people to be connected to a Group that meets on a regular basis and provides a space for each person to Experience Community. Each Group is committed to Encountering Jesus in the truth of Scripture, Engaging in prayer together, and helping each other to Embrace the Mission that each of us has been called to pursue.

This Groups Guide is for all Groups to utilize even if yours is studying something other than the Sunday Conversation. Additional resources are provided weekly to allow for Groups to connect through prayer, worship, discipleship, service, and fellowship. Leaders are encouraged to implement these elements in any order and to feel free to make substitutions or additions.

## prayer.

// continuing the conversation God already started

- Group leader can open in prayer and open for others to pray as well.
- If leading prayer is an area of uncertainty, read a verse/passage such as a Psalm of your choice, and play some background music for a couple of minutes while praying silently and meditating on the verses read (use an instrumental worship playlist from YouTube or Spotify)

## worship.

// with all we are and all we've been given

- Offer info on Family Dedication via the GTWY app: https://qrco.de/beaoCI
- Online giving via the GTWY app: https://qrco.de/beaoCI
- Ask group members, "Where have you seen God working this past week in your life and the lives of others?" Continue this attitude of praise and openness to the transforming power of the Gospel and movement of the Spirit through believers as you sing or meditate on the truth in these songs or in your group's unique worship time.

- Consider playing some of these songs from the weekend and sing along, or worship through meditating on the lyrics as you listen:
    - Hark the Herald/King of Heaven: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3IghOn18VY
    - He Shall Reign Forevermore: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NVN2bnjBlCU
    - What Child Is This? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jroBAl3WW8
    - King of Kings: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Of5IcFWiEpg

## fellowship.

// doing life together

- ***All info found on the GTWY APP****!* Go here: https://qrco.de/beaoCI
- Have you attended ***WELCOME TO CHURCH NIGHT?*** This event is for those newer to GTWY or for anyone curious to learn more about GTWY's mission and vision (rsvp on the app).
- Anyone have a tangible need the group can help support? Meal Train/Take Them a Meal, childcare swap, home project, grief support, etc.
- Anyone have activities this week where group members can show up to support? i.e. kid activities (sports, music, etc), birthdays, doctor appointments, funerals, etc.

## mobilize.

// individually and as a group

- Ask "How did you see God show up as you served this past week?" (through your ministry at church and outside of church)
- Join a ***serve***team: GTWY offers 3 weekend gatherings (Sundays at 8:30, 10, 11:30) - We'd love for you to consider how you can use your gifts to serve. Visit the GTWY app for more info: https://gtwy.churchcenter.com/people/forms/330209
- Monthly ask, "Where should we serve next as a Group?"

## discipleship.

// lives transformed daily by the Gospel

- Suggestions for personal or family study:
  - Visit https://licsms.co/OptIn to receive a link to the future Weekly Devotionals about upcoming Sunday Conversations

    Free Right Now Media account (Video Bible Study Online Library): https://gtwy.life/resources
  - GTWY Messages Archive on the ***GTWY app***: https://qrco.de/beaoCI
  - Adult - Behold: An Advent Study (Jada Edwards) https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/877677
  - Kids & Family - Family Worship at Home: https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/430449

## diving into this week's conversation.

- *Leader Guidance:* Ask open-ended questions or phrases that prompt group members to go deeper is encouraged - "How do you see ___ showing up in your life?" "Tell us more about that." "What does that show us about Jesus?" "What should our response be?" etc.
- Read John 1:19-34 and discuss any takeaways or ah-ha moments centered around what Pastor Jon shared on Sunday. [*Sunday's Big Idea: To behold the Chosen One of God is the only way to become a chosen child of God.]*
- Invite group members to share their story, specifically the AH-HA moment when they realized who Jesus was and their decision to choose Him too.
- Review the beginning of all 4 Gospels, and compare/contrast what each Gospel writer included about John the Baptizer's life & ministry. What was the same? What was different? Why do you think the similarities and differences were included?
- If time, explore the "WHY" behind the questions the Religious Establishment asked John the Baptizer:
  - -How does Jesus refer to John, with reference to the prophet Elijah?
  - -Who best fits this prediction of a coming "Prophet"? Review Deuteronomy 18 for context.
- Spend time in prayer focusing on thanking Jesus for the ah-ha moment when they recognized their need for salvation. Pray for loved ones who haven't had the ah-ha recognition moment yet.