



FOR GROUPS MEETING: Jan. 26-31

SERIES: New Year's Series

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

These last two weeks we have been talking about vision. Last week we looked at Gideon who had a specific vision from God with what to do with his life. We saw that Gideon at first felt he couldn't achieve this vision because he was focusing on his own frailty rather than focusing on God's Strength. We saw that one of the keys to accomplishing God's vision for us is to focus on His I Will more than our will.

This week specifically we want to focus on what does carrying out God's vision look like today in the context of the Church. What role do we play in the Church carrying out God's vision today? What should the Church be focused on?

TO COMPLETE THIS WEEK'S STUDY

- You will need:
 - o A Bible
 - o A quiet place for prayer, reading, and reflection
 - o A pencil or a pen
- Read the **Introduction to Study**.
- Move through the daily studies consecutively.
- Open and close each day in prayer.
- Meditate on each question as you feel led.
- Record your answers in the space to the right of each day's questions.
- If you miss a day, don't worry. Simply pick up where you left off.
- If you are in a small group, strive to have all

Dig Deeper

Some people would like to go deeper in their study. If you would like to do so and have the time, please take advantage of the Dig Deeper sections of this Group Life lesson.



(day 1)

Prayer: Lord this week speak deeply and richly to my heart about what my part is in the work of your Church this year.

Intro: *This week we will be mainly focusing on Salem Church's mission and vision. We will do this by seeing where they are found in scripture and then see what our role in this vision is.*

Read: Matthew 23:37-40

Question 1

Do you know Salem's Mission Statement? If not check <http://www.salemchurchnyc.org/#/im-new?> What is it?

Question 2

As a church the main two actions of our mission can be found in this very passage. Based off of the context of what Jesus says, why do you think this is? (Hint: Jesus said for on these two things....)

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read 1 John 4:7-12

In this passage John references this idea. He actually draws a line between them and says you can't do one with doing the other.

Why do you think that is?



(day 2)

Prayer: **Lord help me to see the areas in which I might not be loving you.**

Intro: *For the rest of the week we will be walking through Salem's Mission as a Church and see where we fit in. The first phrase we will look at is "To Love God..."*

Read: John 14:15-16

1.) According to this passage how do we love God? This passage also speaks to how God helps us do this, how does God help us to obey and love Him? (Hint: He sent something)

2.) What are the things in your life you replace God with by making it more important to pursue/obey than God?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Galatians 5:16-25 teaches the secrets of how to obey God.

What does Paul teach here is essential for obedience?



(day 3)

Prayer: God help me to see the people in my life right now that I'm not loving. Break my heart for them.

Read: Luke 19: 1-10

Intro: *Today we will be focusing on the next part of Salem's mission "and Love People..."*

1.) How did Jesus love Zacchaeus? (Hint: compare Jesus' actions to some of those in the crowd.)

2.) Are there Zacchaeus' in your life that might just be waiting for someone to do a simple thing like inviting them out to eat? Someone who just needs to be loved?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Jesus was the epitome of what it meant to Love God and Love People. The story that took place right before Zacchaeus' shows this as well!

Read Luke 18:35-43

How does Jesus actions teach us more about what it means to love people?



(day 4)

Prayer: Lord help me to see that today you are calling me to meet people where they are at so that they might come to know you.

Intro: *Today we will focus on the next part of the mission which is "by meeting them where they are at and encouraging them into a lifelong joyous relationship with Christ."*

Read: John 4:1-7 and Matthew 28:19

1.) How did Jesus meet the Samaritan woman where she was?

2.) Sometimes when we read the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20) we make the focus on the word "go". We wrongly assume that this means to carry out God's mission we have to go somewhere new. In the original language it would be better translated "as you are going", How does this help us understand what it might mean to meet people where they are? Are there people that as you are going you could meet and encourage them into a relationship with Jesus? (Grocery Store Employee, Banker, Doctor, Coffee Shop Barrista?)

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read Philippians 2:1-12

How did Jesus set the example of meeting people where they are at?



(day 5)

Prayer: Lord help me to see the importance of the Church doing it's mission here on this earth.

Intro: *A very natural question to ask now might be "So what does this have to do with me?" The answer is simple if you are in Christ, you are a part of His Church. The Church is now the vessel which God is using to advance His Kingdom. The only way that can happen to fullest is if we all do our part.*

Read: Ephesians 4:12-16

1.) Specifically focusing on v. 16 how does Paul say that the Church (body) will be the most effective or will allow it to grow?

2.) So how do we as this passage states "work properly", by using our gifts and lives to "Love God and Love People by meeting them where they are and encouraging them into a lifelong joyous relationship with Christ". What aspect of this mission do you need to grow in most this year so that God can continue working through our Church in an impactful life changing way?

DIGGING DEEPER:

This is a great video about the purpose of the Church and our roles within it:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_4u8TRorUw

