

LIFE GROUP LESSON January 13 to January 19, 2019

A Heart for God

●WELCOME God's People (15 minutes)

●**WORSHIP** God (10 minutes – song, reading of Psalms or prayers of thanks/praise). You can use prayers of thanksgiving or adoration as your time of worship

●Live by God's **WORD** (45 minutes)

Believers must have both a heart for God and a vision for the world. It was the last direction Christ gave to His church before ascending to heaven (Luke 24:45-49). He reminded His followers, “You are witnesses of these things” (v. 48) and must share what you’ve seen with everyone. Like them, we need to remember that whenever God plants a vision in our hearts, He has a purpose and a blessing in mind. If we’ll take the first step of obedience, the Lord will lead us to the second and provide everything we need.

What does a heart for God look like?

A Desire to Know Him—When you have a heart for God, you experience an insatiable desire to know Him. It’s not a matter of learning facts, but rather a pursuit of an increasingly personal relationship with Him. You want to spend time alone with the Lord in intimate conversation to better understand His character, thoughts, desires, activities, and plans. Just as you want to know other people you love dearly, you crave time with the Lord. When I was growing up, I noticed some people in my church didn’t seem very excited about Jesus though they had walked with Him for many years. Their desire for Him had dwindled instead of increased. This can happen to any of us if we get sidetracked and neglect our relationship with the Lord.

A Desire to Obey Him—The night before His trial and crucifixion, Jesus told His disciples, “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments” (John 14:15). Genuine love for Christ always results in obedience. Knowing this, could you honestly say that you love Jesus? Is your life one that is characterized by obedience and submission? Consider how you make decisions about things like spending money and using your time. As a believer, you should always be fully surrendered to His will in every aspect of your life.

A Desire to Share Him—If you’re genuinely devoted to Jesus, you’ll want to tell others about Him—the most important person in your life. You shouldn’t keep Him to yourself because Christ didn’t call followers to private faith. Instead, He said, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation” (Mark 16:15). Fear of criticism shouldn’t keep you from telling others about the Savior because they won’t know how desperate they are if believers don’t share His message. This is the good news of Christ!

Suggested Questions for Discussion and Growth

1. What is your concept of sharing Christ with the world?
2. How can you share with someone you know about the many ways God blesses and guides you and your family throughout the year?
3. Who has had the biggest impact on your thinking regarding sharing the Lord with those who don’t know Him

●Impact God's WORLD (20 min)

1. Think about ways to grow your group and give birth to a new group.
2. Pray for your lost relatives, co-workers. Ask the Lord to help be a good example.
3. Your group might think about visiting an elderly person or couple.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – 3 minutes:

1. Share: ●any planned group activity ●important church announcements ●next meeting time
2. Keep a copy of the church bulletin to help remind the group of important events.

CLOSING – Please turn in your attendance each week. It helps us evaluate our progress.