

# Life Group Bible Study

“Why On Earth Am I On Earth?”

“To Follow God’s Counsel”



January 15, 2023

## ICE BREAKER

1) How have you enjoying January so far? I am putting this study together on November 15 and some are saying it is going to be a cold winter. Are they right? 2) After three weeks, how are your New Year’s Resolutions going so far?

## DISCUSSION:

What does seeking God’s direction and wisdom look like in your life? When you ask God for direction through prayer, do you expect an answer? Why or why not? Share about a time (either positive or negative) that you experienced Psalm 32:8-9.

Psalms 32:8-9 NLT The LORD says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. 9 Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control."

Read Proverbs 3:1-26 looking for references to wisdom and wise counsel.

Proverbs 3:1-26 NLT My child, never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart. 2 If you do this, you will live many years, and your life will be satisfying. 3 Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart. 4 Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation. 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take. 7 Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil. 8 Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones. 9 Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. 10 Then He will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine. 11 My child, don't reject the LORD's discipline, and don't be upset when He corrects you. 12 For the LORD corrects those He loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights. 13 Joyful is the person who finds wisdom, the one who gains understanding. 14 For wisdom is more profitable than silver, and her wages are better than gold. 15 Wisdom is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. 16 She offers you long life in her right hand, and riches and honor in her left. 17 She will guide you down delightful paths; all her ways are satisfying. 18 Wisdom is a tree of life to those who embrace her; happy are those who hold her tightly. 19 By wisdom the LORD founded the earth; by understanding He created the heavens. 20 By His knowledge the deep fountains of the earth burst forth, and the dew settles beneath the night sky. 21 My child, don't lose sight of common sense and discernment. Hang on to them, 22 for they will refresh your soul. They are like jewels on a necklace. 23 They keep you safe on your way, and your feet will not stumble. 24 You can go to bed without fear; you will lie down and sleep soundly. 25 You need not be afraid of sudden disaster or the destruction that comes upon the wicked, 26 for the LORD is your security. He will keep your foot from being caught in a trap.

Considering the benefits of living by God’s wisdom and counsel, why do you think we so often try to live by our own strength and wisdom? What do you think can help you seek God’s wisdom and direction day by day?

## **INTENTIONAL INTIMACY**

Read 1 Kings 19:11-13.

1 Kings 19:11-13 NLT "Go out and stand before Me on the mountain," the LORD told him. And as Elijah stood there, the LORD passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. 12 And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And a voice said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

What hardships did Elijah have to endure on the mountain while waiting to hear God's voice? How much focus did it take for Elijah to hear the still small voice when faced with so many distractions? What wind, earthquake or fire in your life might be distracting you from hearing God's still small voice? How can you overcome these distractions?

## **TOTAL SURRENDER**

In this series we have been talking about God having a purpose for each of us over the last few weeks. Have you spent prayerful time listening for God's direction in your life? If so, what have you heard? If not, plan on doing so before your next LifeGroup meeting.

## **EXPERIENCE MORE**

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-6.

1 Corinthians 10:1-6 NLT 1 I don't want you to forget, dear brothers and sisters, about our ancestors in the wilderness long ago. All of them were guided by a cloud that moved ahead of them, and all of them walked through the sea on dry ground. 2 In the cloud and in the sea, all of them were baptized as followers of Moses. 3 All of them ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all of them drank the same spiritual water. For they drank from the spiritual rock that traveled with them, and that rock was Christ. 5 Yet God was not pleased with most of them, and their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. 6 These things happened as a warning to us, so that we would not crave evil things as they did,

How has God used a bad or negative experience in your past to give you tools to handle life challenges today?

## **LOVE LIKE JESUS LOVES**

Read Ephesians 4:11-13.

Ephesians 4:11-13 NLT Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ. 13 This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

How do you think fulfilling your purpose benefits not only you, but others as well?