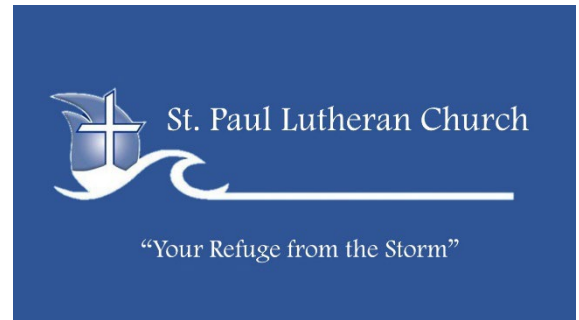


# Life Group Bible Study

“Why On Earth Am I On Earth?”

“Commit”

January 22, 2023



## ICE BREAKER

- 1) What is your favorite holiday and why?
- 2) If you could take a vacation anywhere in the world, where would you go?

## DISCUSSION:

This Sunday we will be talking about the “State of the Church.” We will look at our mission and vision as a church. What is your understanding of St. Paul’s vision and purpose? How much do you know about the history of St. Paul?

## UNDERSTANDING ST. PAUL’S PURPOSE

### 5) WE DO OUR BEST.

Describe how Proverbs 3:9-10, Psalms 33:3, Colossians 3:23-24 and 1 Corinthians 9:24 show how we are to do our best for God.

Proverbs 3:9-10 NLT 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.

Psalms 33:3 NLT Sing a new song of praise to Him; play skillfully on the harp, and sing with joy.

Colossians 3:23-24 NLT Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. 24 Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.

1 Corinthians 9:24 NLT Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win!

How does your LifeGroup encourage you to strive for you to do your best in your walk with God?

### 4) WE ARE CREATIVE AND FUN.

How do you see God’s creativity and fun in nature? How do you see God’s desire for us to be creative and fun in Psalm 33:1-3; 96:1-6 and Nehemiah 8:10? Describe a time in your life when you found joy through creativity.

Psalms 33:1-3 NLT Let the godly sing for joy to the LORD; it is fitting for the pure to praise Him. 2 Praise the LORD with melodies on the lyre; make music for Him on the ten-stringed harp. 3 Sing a new song of praise to Him; play skillfully on the harp, and sing with joy.

Psalms 96:1-6 NLT Sing a new song to the LORD! Let the whole earth sing to the LORD! 2 Sing to the LORD; praise His name. Each day proclaim the good news that He saves. 3 Publish His glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things He does. 4

Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise! He is to be feared above all gods. 5 The gods of other nations are mere idols, but the LORD made the heavens! 6 Honor and majesty surround Him; strength and beauty fill His sanctuary.

Nehemiah 8:10 NLT And Nehemiah continued, "Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the LORD is your strength!"

### **3) WE VALUE PEOPLE PASSIONATELY.**

Read Matthew 9:36 *"When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."* How many stories can you name from the Bible where God and/or Jesus showed value to people (for example, Luke 17:11-19 and Luke 19:1-10)? Share about a time when you felt valued at St. Paul or in your LifeGroup.

Luke 17:11-19 NLT As Jesus continued on toward Jerusalem, He reached the border between Galilee and Samaria. 12 As He entered a village there, ten lepers stood at a distance, 13 crying out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" 14 He looked at them and said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed of their leprosy. 15 One of them, when he saw that he was healed, came back to Jesus, shouting, "Praise God!" 16 He fell to the ground at Jesus' feet, thanking Him for what He had done. This man was a Samaritan. 17 Jesus asked, "Didn't I heal ten men? Where are the other nine? 18 Has no one returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" 19 And Jesus said to the man, "Stand up and go. Your faith has healed you."

Luke 19:1-10 NLT Jesus entered Jericho and made His way through the town. 2 There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. 3 He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. 5 When Jesus came by, He looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" He said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today." 6 Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. 7 But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled. 8 Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!" 9 Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

### **2) WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT GOD'S WORD BEING OUR ULTIMATE AUTHORITY.**

According to 2 Timothy 3:14-17, what is the benefit of God's Word and what is its purpose? Read Matthew 5:18; 24:35, Isaiah 40:8 and 1 Peter 1:25. What do these verses say about the authority and durability of God's Word? How does believing in the ultimate authority of God's Word impact your life in a practical way?

2 Timothy 3:14-17 NLT But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. 15 You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are

wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work.

Matthew 5:18 NLT I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear until its purpose is achieved.

Matthew 24:35 NLT Heaven and earth will disappear, but My words will never disappear.

Isaiah 40:8 NLT The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever."

1 Peter 1:25 NLT But the word of the Lord remains forever." And that word is the Good News that was preached to you.

### **1) WE ARE EXPRESSIVE IN OUR LOVE FOR CHRIST.**

What are you expressive or passionate about (i.g. football, other sports, your favorite TV show, social injustices etc)? How does it impact you when you see someone extremely passionate about what is important to them? Read Mark 12:29-34 and 2 Samuel 6:14-15. Do you have that same level of passion for God? Why or why not? How do you think having passion for God affects your testimony?

Mark 12:29-34 NLT Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. 30 And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' 31 The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these." 32 The teacher of religious law replied, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth by saying that there is only one God and no other. 33 And I know it is important to love Him with all my heart and all my understanding and all my strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law." 34 Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God." And after that, no one dared to ask Him any more questions.

2 Samuel 6:14-15 NLT And David danced before the LORD with all his might, wearing a priestly garment. 15 So David and all the people of Israel brought up the Ark of the LORD with shouts of joy and the blowing of rams' horns.