

Life Group Covenant & Romans 1:1-17

The Power to Change Your Life!

Life Group Study Guide

Sugar Grove Church of Christ
11600 West Airport Blvd. Meadows Place, TX 77477
For use by Sugar Grove Church of Christ Life Groups

Connect: (5-10 minutes)

- Welcome! Go around the circle and have each person share their name and significant information about themselves that helps everyone else to know them.
- How did you come to be connected to this group?

Memory Verse:

¹⁶I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹⁷For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” *Romans 1: 16-17*

If your group has more than 10 people you may want to break into groups of 5-8 people to facilitate greater participation and discussion after you conclude the Life Group Covenant. Then come back together at the end of the Grow section and have someone from each group report the highlights of their discussion before you move into the Serve, Share, and Worship sections.

Life Group Covenant: (15-25 minutes- First Group Session Only)

- A successful group begins by discussing various elements of group life. Work through the Life Group Covenant as a group completing all of the blanks as you discuss each item. Then have every member sign the Covenant when it is complete.
 - Discuss Priority, Participation, Respect, Confidentiality, and the empty chair.
 - Discuss and describe how the group will recognize when to multiply a new group and how that might work in this group.
 - Discuss and describe how the group will identify and develop new hosts and facilitators.
 - Discuss and identify where the group will meet- develop a group calendar if necessary.
 - Discuss and record when the group begins and ends and the importance of honoring the start and finish time.
 - Discuss and record what would be the most appropriate time for everyone to depart the host home to show respect to the host so they can prepare for the next day.
 - Discuss and record how the group will manage children (if applicable).
 - Discuss and record what the group service project will be- see group project list. (the group might not be prepared to make a final decision yet)
 - Discuss and record who will serving in each of the following roles:
 - **Host and apprentice host**
 - **Discussion Facilitator and apprentice**
 - **Prayer coordinator** (this is a person who cares about people, has a passion for prayer, and will keep a record of prayer requests and how/if they have been answered.)
 - **Snack/meal coordinator**

- **Children’s coordinator** (this person who will take care of picking up and dropping off the children’s bag each week at Grand Central and making sure there is an adult to work with the children each week- the expectation is that all members of the group will share the responsibility of assisting with the children)
 - **Service project coordinator** (this person will finalize the group service project, coordinate the project with the Hands of Christ ministry and Tim Shoulders, and organize the group so that they can carry out the selected project.)
 - **Communication coordinator** (this person will maintain communication with all group members)
 - **Inviting Sugar Grove guests coordinator** (this person’s primary responsibility is to seek out visitors on Sunday morning and invite them to the Life Group meeting- Sugar Grove has 30-40 guests any week! How wonderful would it be for each guest to get multiple invitations to a Life Group that was meeting that evening.)
- Each member will sign all of the forms being filled out. Return one form to the church office or Grand Central.

Grow: (15-25 minutes)

1. What would really scare you if you lost it?!
2. Read this excerpt of scriptures from Acts, Romans, and Philippians:

“...at the top of their voices they all rushed at him (Stephen), dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul (Paul).” Acts 7:57-58

“Meanwhile, Saul (Paul) was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them prisoners.” Acts 9:1-2

“If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.” Philippians 3:4b-6

“Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God... Through him and for his name’s sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith... God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you in my prayers at all times... I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong- that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith... I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome. I am not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes...” Romans 1: 1,5, 9-12, 14-16a

3. In view of these scriptures how was Paul’s life changed after he was called by God?
4. How is your life (in this world right now) different because you are a Christian? How do others know you are a Christian?

5. We know who we should put our trust in but who or what do you seem to put your trust in? *Why?*
 - *The items in this world that can be lost*
 - *Yourself*
 - _____
6. Read Romans 1:16-17
7. The gospel is the power of God for the salvation of all who believe but it is also the power to change your life in this world right now from the inside out as it changed Paul's life. What needs to happen in your life so that you can more fully experience this transformation from the inside out that changed a murderous killer of Believers into the apostle Paul? (*remember to pray over the responses to this question at the end of your group time or sooner if necessary!*)

Serve: (3-5 min.)

- The power of the gospel prompts us to put our faith into action. How will you put your faith into action this week?
- *Don't forget to think about your group project!*

Share: (3-5 min.)

- Paul had a passion to share the message of Jesus with people because he had been changed from the inside out by **the power** of the gospel. Remember the empty chair and ask each person who God has placed around them that should be in that chair. *Have the prayer coordinator make note of these names so that you can lift them up in prayer at the end of the group time.*

Worship: (3-5 min.)

- Close your group time in prayer. *Have the prayer coordinator take prayer requests.*
- Close in prayer lifting up issues from your discussion, the names from the Share section, and prayer requests. Finally be sure to petition God to open every ounce of our being to the transforming power of God that comes through the gospel.

Preparation for Next Time:

- Read Romans 1:18-3:8