



Playlist

Life Group Leader Guide

What soundtrack are you listening to...

Great music moves the soul and sets the atmosphere. Whether we realize it or not, there is a playlist playing in our minds influencing our experience of life. When things get hard, changing our playlist can change our lives.

Over the coming weeks we are going to learn from King David, one of the greatest song writers ever known and create a new playlist for life.

Together, we will look at the following soundtracks::

1. "Songs of Comfort" September 29 & 30, 2018
2. "Songs of Grace" - October 6 & 7, 2018
3. "Songs of Faith" - October 13 & 14, 2018
4. "Songs of Christ" - October 20 & 21, 2018

In this packet, you will find links to connect your group with short video teaching segments that will be the foundation for your meetings along with sample discussion questions for our study and several helpful tools & handouts that you can use in leading your group meetings.

In addition to these materials, watch for our regular leadership emails and other helpful resources as you lead your group. Feel free to contact your group coach or our team with any questions or concerns that come up during this series.

Discussion Questions

At each group meeting you will have the opportunity to discuss a series topic and explore the passages we are studying in worship each week. Our sessions are aligning with the sermon series beginning the weekend of September 29 & 30 and will give your group a chance to dig a little deeper into our weekly theme.

Each session's discussion includes three groups of questions:

- 1. *Get to know me:*** Questions written to help your group open up to one another and begin sharing life experiences related to the topic.
If your group is meeting for the first time, consider using all (or most) of the questions included here.
If your group knows one another fairly well, you might consider skipping the first question or two in this section and starting your group discussion with question three, etc.
- 2. *Into the Bible:*** Questions designed to draw you into the text from the most recent week's sermon. These questions include Scripture passages to study as a group. This might be the first time some of your group members have really explored the Bible. Don't miss an opportunity to let them really read the Word of God. These questions are written with the most direct questions first and the more complex questions last. Feel free to select the questions that best fit your group and will get them discussing the ideas that will be most valuable to them.
- 3. *Application:*** No lesson is complete without the opportunity to apply the learning to our lives. The questions and discussion prompts in this section are just that. Complete as many as your group has time for and/or focus on the questions that stimulate the greatest interest in your group.



Additionally, each week's lesson in this series will feature a Life Group edition video segment that will set the stage for your discussion. Video segments can be streamed through your computer or mobile device by visiting here:

<http://christchurchohio.org/grow/life-group-leaders>

Session One: “Songs of Comfort” - Psalm 118:14-16



This week’s lesson features a Life Group edition video segment that will set the stage for your discussion. Video segments can be streamed through your computer or mobile device by visiting here: <http://christchurchohio.org/grow/life-group-leaders>

Get to know me

- If your group is meeting for the first time, be sure to introduce yourselves to one another and welcome any newcomers. As you begin this series, discuss who you might like to invite to join you in the coming weeks. Complete the group roster in the appendix of this packet and use the “Circles of Life” handout to brainstorm who would benefit from joining your group.
- As we begin our look the soundtracks of our lives, what are some of your favorite songs/types of music? Share about how the music you listen to makes you feel.
- What music do you like to listen to when you have time to relax? Can you think of a time when you were stressed or discouraged and a particular song brought you encouragement?

Into the Bible

- What stood out to you most from this week’s sermon and video teaching segment?
- Ask someone in the group to read Psalm 118:14-16. What qualities of God referenced in that verse bring you the most comfort?
- What environment do you envision when you imagine “the tents of the righteous” filled with “glad songs of salvation”? How does the reference to music help paint the picture of God’s comfort?
- What did you learn about David through the message he shared in this Psalm? How did this Psalm serve King Saul?
- ALTERNATE SCRIPTURE: In each session of this study we will have an additional scripture designed to give your group another option for discussion. Feel free to look at these suggested verses as time permits and consider similarities or differences that you find. This week, consider Mary’s song in Luke 1:51. How does she remember David’s words and find comfort through her playlist?

Application

- What persistent thoughts in your life need changed?
- What messages do you recite when you’re in need of comfort? Do you ever find that your internal playlist isn’t helpful in bouncing back when you’re discouraged?
- What of God’s qualities can you remind yourself of when you’re in need of comfort? What are some effective ways to remind yourself of those truths?
- DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS: In each session of this study we will have an application designed to help your group focus on a personal discipline. This week, consider the value of the Scriptures in building an effective playlist in your life. If you haven’t already, consider starting a reading plan using the YouVersion Bible App. The Bible

App has hundreds of very good reading plans and it would be great for your group to choose one together.

Session Two: “Songs of Grace” - Psalm 118:1-4



This week’s lesson features a Life Group edition video segment that will set the stage for your discussion. Video segments can be streamed through your computer or mobile device by visiting here: <http://christchurchohio.org/grow/life-group-leaders>

Get to know me

- In our culture, friendships can go up and down too easily. Can you think of an experience where a friend or acquaintance seemed to only stick with you in the good times? Can you think of another friend who truly stuck with you through thick and thin?
- What are some things you do to try to be the most supportive friend you can be? Is there a relationship that is especially important to you?
- What examples come to mind when you think of something/someone that has an enduring/steadfast quality?

Into the Bible

- What stood out to you most from this week’s sermon and video teaching segment?
- Psalm 118:1-4 tells the story of God’s love. What do you observe about how King David describes God love in these verses?
- What does the repeated phrase in these verses of these verses emphasize? How does the repetition drive home David’s point and what qualities does he want to especially identify?
- Referencing “Israel”, “the house of Aaron”, and “those who fear the Lord” shows the breadth of God’s love. What conclusion do you draw about God’s grace in reading David’s inclusion of these three references?
- ALTERNATE SCRIPTURE: In addition to this verse, consider looking at Ezra 3:10-11 as a group this week. How did David’s words reappear when Ezra celebrated the foundation of the house of the Lord?

Application

- When our life is going well, what can you do to especially celebrate God’s graciousness?
- As we see the everlasting nature of God’s love for us, what can you do to remind yourself of His goodness when things aren’t going so well? What can you do this week to reinforce the everlasting nature of God’s grace when facing obstacles in life?
- What should the discipline of worship look like in our lives?
- DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS: In this week’s teaching we emphasized God’s enduring grace, and at times, we can be a source of God’s grace when we are used by Him to serve

others. As a group, commit to serving in some way. Tackle a project together, meet a need in your group, pursue a community partnership, or consider participating in our upcoming SERVE Day. (For more information on recommended community projects and SERVE partners, visit the life group leaders page at www.christchurchohio.org or call the church office).

Session Three: “Songs of Faith” - Psalm 118:5-9



This week’s lesson features a Life Group edition video segment that will set the stage for your discussion. Video segments can be streamed through your computer or mobile device by visiting here: <http://christchurchohio.org/grow/life-group-leaders>

Get to know me

- Can you think of a time that you were in a jam and had to call someone for help? How did it feel to need someone else’s help? Was it hard to choose who to call for help?
- Can you think of a time when you were especially in need of God’s help? How did God’s presence impact your circumstances?
- How does your attitude change your approach to problems you face in life?

Into the Bible

- What stood out to you most from this week’s sermon and video teaching segment?
- Read Psalm 118:5-9 together as a group. What circumstances are challenging the psalmist in these verses?
- As David considers the times in his life when he needed God’ help, how does he describe the refuge God provided?
- How is God’s refuge superior to other sources of strength people turn to in hard times?
- ALTERNATE SCRIPTURE: In Hebrews 13:6, the author recites this verse. What can we learn about this reference and the power of Scripture memorization by comparing the texts?

Application

- What does an attitude of faith look like when facing a difficult situation?
- Is there an area of your life where you are experience some fear/anxiety? How can you personally relate to David in these verses?
- What can your group do to encourage one another and provide reminders that can strengthen your faith in difficult times?
- DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS: This reference shows the importance of being able to recall the truth of Scripture in difficult times. Take time in your group session to commit to memorizing the portions of this Psalm that have been most meaningful to you.

Session Four: "Songs of Christ" - Revelation 4:8-11



This week's lesson features a Life Group edition video segment that will set the stage for your discussion. Video segments can be streamed through your computer or mobile device by visiting here: <http://christchurchohio.org/grow/life-group-leaders>

Get to know me

- As we wrap up our Playlist series, share your favorite worship song. Is there a song we sing at church that is especially meaningful to you? Why do you think it resonates with you?
- Why do you think the times when we sing together in church are important?
- Have you had a positive worship experience when you are by yourself? What was that like? Do you find it easy to express honor to God through music?

Into the Bible

- What stood out to you most from this week's sermon and video teaching segment?
- In Revelation 4:11 we see several character attributes of God that are worshiped. Which stand out to you most?
- What is the nature of the creatures singing describing God in this way? Why is there relationship/proximity to God an important part of understanding their message?
- Why is worship central to the future God is creating?
- How does God's nature motivate us as we worship Him?
- ALTERNATE SCRIPTURE: In addition to this week's verse, consider looking at Psalm 33:8-12 as a group this week. What words can you use to ascribe honor to God?

Application

- How can we worship God through the week in other ways that singing music?
- What can your group do to worship God together as a group?
- As your groups concluded this series, confirm your plans to continue your group's growth through our next series.
- DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS: Christ's sacrifice on our behalf is a reason to ascribe praise to Him... In addition to worshiping through singing, one way we can do this is to identify with Christ's sacrifice by making a sacrifice of our own. Is there something that you will go without for a period of time as a way of sacrificing as Christ did?

Group Agreement

Our Group's Purpose:

To transform our spiritual lives by cultivating our spiritual health in a healthy small group community.

We do this through:

Group Attendance

To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent. (Completing the Group Calendar will minimize this issue.)

Safe Environment

To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved. (Please, no quick answers, snap judgments or simple fixes.)

Respect Differences

To be gentle and gracious to people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments or imperfections. We are all works in progress.

Confidentiality

To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group, and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.

Encouragement for Growth

To be not just takers but givers of life. We want to spiritually multiply our lives by serving others with our God-given gifts.

Welcoming Newcomers

To keep an open chair and share Jesus' dream of finding a shepherd for every sheep.

Shared Ownership

To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attender will share a small team role or responsibility over time.

Rotating Hosts/Leaders and Homes

To encourage different people to host the group in their homes and to rotate the responsibility of facilitating each meeting. (See the Group Calendar.)

- Refreshments/meal times _____
- Child care _____
- When we will meet (day of week) _____
- Where we will meet (place) _____
- We will begin at (time) _____ and end at _____
- We will do our best to have some or all of us attend a worship service together. Our primary worship service time will be _____
- Date of this agreement _____

Group Calendar

Planning and calendaring can help ensure the greatest participation at every meeting. At the end of each meeting, review this calendar. Be sure to include a regular rotation of host homes and leaders, and don't forget birthdays, socials, church events, holidays, and mission/ministry projects.

DATE	LESSON	LOCATION	DESSERT/ MEAL	FACILITATOR

Group Roster

Use this chart to record contact information for the members of your group.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	EMAIL	MINISTRY	OTHER
<i>Brett Eastman</i>	<i>29801 Santa Margarita Pkwy. Ste. 100</i>	<i>949-609-8709</i>	<i>brett@inregether.com</i>	<i>Childrens</i>	<i>5 Kids</i>

CIRCLES OF LIFE

DISCOVER WHO YOU CAN CONNECT IN COMMUNITY

The diagram consists of five overlapping circles arranged in a pentagonal pattern. Each circle contains a title and a brief description, followed by four horizontal lines for writing.

- Family**
(immediate or extended)
- Familiar**
(neighbors, kids' sports teams, school, and so forth)
- Friends**
- Fun**
(gym, hobbies, hangouts)
- Firm**
(work)

Follow this simple four-step process:

1. **Prayerfully** list 1-2 people in each circle.
2. **Prepare** the group for them. Share a few names with your group and update your progress.
3. **Place** a call to them.
4. **Pick** them up and bring them to your next meeting.

"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19

Leading for the First Time

Sweaty palms are a healthy sign. The Bible says God is gracious to the humble. Remember who is in control; the time to worry is when you're not worried.

Those who are soft in heart (and sweaty palmed) are those whom God is sure to speak through.

Seek support. Ask your leader, coleader, or close friend to pray for you and prepare with you before the session. Walking through the study will help you anticipate potentially difficult questions and discussion topics.

Bring your uniqueness to the study. Lean into who you are and how God wants you to uniquely lead the study.

Prepare. Prepare. Prepare. Go through the session several times before your group meets. Set aside time to discuss the material with your coach and bring up any questions or ideas that you are unclear about. Consider writing in a journal or fasting for a day to prepare yourself for what God wants to do.

Don't wait until the last minute to prepare.

Ask for feedback so you can grow. Perhaps in an email or on cards handed out at the study, have everyone write down three things you did well and one thing you could improve on. Don't get defensive, but show an openness to learn and grow.

Prayerfully consider launching a new group. This doesn't need to happen overnight, but God's heart is for this to happen over time. Not all Christians are called to be leaders or teachers, but we are all called to be "shepherds" of a few someday.

Share with your group what God is doing in your heart. God is searching for those whose hearts are fully His. Share your trials and victories. We promise that people will relate.

Prayerfully consider whom you would like to pass the baton to next week. It's only fair. God is ready for the next member of your group to go on the faith journey you just traveled. Make it fun, and expect God to do the rest.

Leadership Training

Congratulations! You've responded to the call to lead a group.

There are few other tasks in the family of God that surpass the contribution you will be making. As you prepare to lead, whether it is one session or the entire series, here are a few thoughts to keep in mind. We encourage you to read these and review them with each new discussion leader before he or she leads.

1. Remember that you are not alone. God knows everything about you, and He knew that you would be asked to lead your group. Remember that it is common for all good leaders to feel that they are not ready to lead. Moses, Solomon, Jeremiah and Timothy—they all were reluctant to lead. God promises, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). Whether you are leading for one evening, for several weeks, or for a lifetime, you will be blessed as you serve.
2. Don't try to do it alone. Pray right now for God to help you build a healthy leadership team. If you can enlist a co-leader to help you lead the group, you will find your experience to be much richer. This is your chance to involve as many people as you can in building a healthy group. All you have to do is call and ask people to help, you'll be surprised at the response.
3. Just be yourself. If you won't be you, who will? God wants you to use your unique gifts and temperament. Don't try to do things exactly like another leader; do them in a way that fits you! Just admit it when you don't have an answer, and apologize when you make a mistake. Your group will love you for it, and you'll sleep better at night!
4. Prepare for your meeting ahead of time. Review the session and the leader's notes, and write down your responses to each question. Pay special attention to questions that ask group members to do something other than engage in discussion. These exercises will help your group live what the Bible teaches, not just talk about it. Be sure you understand how a question is designed, and bring any necessary supplies (such as paper and pens) to your meeting. If the exercise employs one of the items in the appendix, be sure to look over that item so you'll know how it works.
5. Pray for your group members by name. Before you begin your session, go around the room in your mind and pray for each member by name. You may want to review the prayer list at least once a week. Ask God to use your time together to touch the heart of every person uniquely. Expect God to lead you to whomever he wants you to encourage or challenge in a special way. If you listen, God will surely lead!
6. When you ask a question, be patient. Someone will eventually respond. Sometimes people need a moment or two of silence to think about the question, and if silence doesn't bother you, it won't bother anyone else. After someone responds, affirm the response with a simple "thanks" or "good job." Then ask, "How about somebody else?" or "Would someone who hasn't shared like to add anything?" Be sensitive to new people or reluctant members who

aren't ready to say, pray or do anything. If you give them a safe setting, they will blossom over time.

7. Provide transitions between questions. When guiding the discussion, always read aloud the transitional paragraphs and the questions. Ask the group if anyone would like to read the paragraph or Bible passage. Don't call on anyone, but ask for a volunteer, and then be patient until someone begins. Be sure to thank the person who reads aloud.

8. Break up into smaller groups each week. If your group has more than ten people, we strongly encourage you to have the group gather in discussion circles of three or four people. With a greater opportunity to talk in a small circle, people will connect more with the study, apply more quickly what they're learning and ultimately get more out of it. A small circle also encourages a quiet person to participate and tends to minimize the effects of a more vocal or dominant member. It can also help people feel more loved in your group. When you gather again at the end of the section, you can have one person summarize the highlights from each circle. Small circles are also helpful during prayer time. People who are unaccustomed to praying aloud will feel more comfortable trying it with just two or three others. Also, prayer requests won't take as much time, so circles will have more time to actually pray. When you gather back with the whole group, you can have one person from each circle briefly update everyone on the prayer requests. People are more willing to pray in small circles if they know that the whole group will hear all the prayer requests.

9. Rotate facilitators weekly. At the end of each meeting, ask the group who should lead the following week. Let the group help select your weekly facilitator. You may be perfectly capable of leading each time, but you will help others grow in their faith and gifts if you give them opportunities to lead. You can use the Small Group Calendar to fill in the names of all meeting leaders at once if you prefer.

10. One final challenge (for new or first time leaders): Before your first opportunity to lead, look up each of the five passages listed below. Read each one as a devotional exercise to help equip yourself with a shepherd's heart. Trust us on this one. If you do this, you will be more than ready for your first meeting.

- Matthew 9:36
- 1 Peter 5:2-4
- Psalm 23
- Ezekiel 34:11-16
- 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8, 11-12

How to lead in Prayer

One of the most powerful aspects of small groups is the opportunity to offer prayer requests, to pray together, and then to see how God follows through on those prayers. It's amazing to see how God works over three months or six months or a year. Prayers gets answered, situations change, hearts change—your group sees God work in mighty ways.

Just as powerful as the group dynamic of prayer is the impact that a praying leader can have on his or her group. A praying leader ministers to the group not only by showing how much he or she cares about their needs but also by modeling a life of prayer.

As with most things, becoming a small group centered on prayer doesn't just happen. Here are seven tips on how you can minister to your small group through prayer:

- Dedicate the last half hour of each bible study to “personal prayer needs” time.
- Write each member's prayer requests down on 3x5 cards or the prayer sheets provided. Bring the cards/sheets to every study so you can check back on their requests.
- After the requests are given, pray immediately with your group.
- Set up a prayer-partner system where each member has another member praying for him or her, and vice versa.
- As a leader, continue to pray for each specific prayer request of each of your members (use your cards as reminders) daily.
- Call mid-week (or mid-session) to see how things are going.
- Call or email whenever the Holy Spirit prompts you. God may use you to help answer a member's prayer. If you feel the Holy Spirit giving you wisdom that could help a member in a quandary, let that person know.

Prayer and Praise Reports

Prayer is essential to group life, use this chart as a place to record prayer requests that are shared in your group each week.

PRAYER REQUEST	PRAISE REPORT