**Taste and See, Meeting God in His Promises**

**Life Group Leader- Gordon Magee, Co-Leader- Richard Denny/Leslie Levy**

**Life Group Coordinator- Ken Kelly**

**Summary:** Life Group focused on the functionality of both the written word of God and of seeking prayer, bringing members into:

* The experience of becoming a disciple of Christ (taste and see by fulfilling the conditional portions of God’s promises made in the Bible)
* Understanding and embracing their own personal destiny in a manner which unfolds with God daily

**Weeks 1-12:** Ten planned sessions plus two pre-defined as- Service Project week and Group Fellowship week

**Session Format:** Meeting in New Life’s lower room (Youth Room)

* One and a half hour meeting, starts 7pm, end 8:30pm, a week-night, Starts on time, ends on time (no exceptions)
  + 7pm, 5 minutes- Ice-breaker/bring group to focus, opening prayer
  + 7:05pm, 20 minutes- Cover Main Concept
  + 7:25pm, 20 minutes- Discussion on Main Concept
  + 7:45pm, 20 minutes- Open floor: field questions, review homework, discuss questions of any kind, (homework assigned at the end of this time)
  + 8:05pm, 25 minutes- Group prayer time: scribe requests (printed for next week and followed through), learning to wait on the Lord, learning to pray, share what is God messaging and doing
* Methods
  + Responding to the Great and Precious Promises of the Bible will be used to reveal the power and reality of the Lord
  + Homework assignments will be Bible reading done as part of a quiet time with the Lord, will include standard required reading as well as reading to address open floor issues
  + We will learn how to listen to the Lord as part of the group’s activities
  + There will be one session of serving the Lord based on His direction to the group

**Eleven Session outline with Homework:**

The sessions will cover specific topics, the homework will provide an opportunity to get into the Word.

* **Session 1**, proving that God exists, introduction to the great and precious promises of the Lord, drawing near to God ‘taste and see’
  + Talk about Hunger and Thirst: John 4:5-14 Jesus words to the woman at the well, Isaiah 55:1 come drink and eat, Revelation 22: 17 Come!
  + How can we satisfy our hunger and thirst to know about His existence? How can we gain satisfactory answers to the honest questions of life? How can we discover if we are being honest in asking? Our first promise and challenge from God: Jeremiah 29:11-14a Jer 29:11-14 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD
  + The conditional nature of the promises of God (list some of the promises of God which are known to the group)
  + Oh taste and see, Psalm 34:8 Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!
  + Homework assignment (explain homework)- Gospel of Matthew Chapters 1-5
  + Memory Verse of the week (how to memorize)- Jeremiah 29:13-14a And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD
* **Session 2**, understanding that you were created on purpose and for destiny
  + The Fundamental Questions of Life: Who am I? Why am I here? What is this Life all about? Predestination & Acts 17:22-28
  + Main promise: Ps 34:8-10 Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him. The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing.
  + What promises are listed? How can we meet God in these promises? How are trust and fear recognized in practical living? Let’s talk more about what it means to seek the Lord.
  + Homework assignment- Gospel of Matthew Chapters 6-10
  + Memory Verse of the week- Psalm 34:8 Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!
* **Session 3**, what we can learn about Who God is
  + The Berean way, how our Life Group is designed
  + To learn who God is, begin at the beginning
  + Main promise: Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
  + Homework assignment- Gospel of Matthew Chapters 11-16
  + Memory Verse of the week- Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
* **Session 4**, the biggest step, saying yes to Jesus
  + More than just a religion, John 12:32 draw all peoples, 2 Peter 3:9 that all should come, John 3:16 whoever believes
  + What exactly is God’s purpose in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ?
  + Main promises: Acts 2:38-39 & Isaiah 55:6-9
  + Homework assignment- Gospel of Matthew Chapters 17-22
  + Memory Verse of the week- John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.
* **Session 5**, the pathway back to the image of God
  + Created in God’s image, Separated from God, Reconciled to God through Jesus
  + Main promise: John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."
  + Homework assignment- Gospel of Matthew Chapters 23-28
  + Memory Verse of the week- John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."
* **Session 6**, the in-dwelling Christ, God’s Holy Spirit in you
  + He has given us of His Spirit, made alive again
  + The Role of the Holy Spirit
  + The Fruit of the Holy Spirit
  + The Gifts of the Holy Sprit
  + Main promise: John 14:21-23 “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?"

Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”

* Which commandments: Matthew 5:17-19, Matthew 22:36-40, John 13:34-35
  + Homework assignment- Selected Psalms: Psalm 1, Psalm 5, Psalm 16, Psalm 19, Psalm, 23, Psalm 34

Memory Verse of the week- John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”

* **Session 7, Review**
  + Round table review of the last six weeks teachings, just use the headings and memory verses, find out if there are questions and testimonies
  + Homework assignment- Book of Ephesians
  + Memory- Review the first 6 verses, read them once a day
* **Session 8**, embracing maturity, departing from iniquity
  + Group discuss and choose a service project tonight
  + 2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."
  + Connect back into Created/Separated/Redeemed and letting Jesus into every area of our lives.
  + Use the analogy of a tree, what does good fruit look like? Fruit of the Spirit, what does bad fruit look like? What causes the fruit? Explain the difference between: sin, trespass, transgression (fruits) and iniquity (roots-character flaws)
  + Main promise: 2 Timothy 2:20-21 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.
  + Homework assignment- Book of Philippians
  + Memory Verse of the week- 2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."
* **Session 9**, becoming a friend of God
  + What is God seeking? Jesus message to the woman at the well
  + What do we know about friendship? What is the difference between a friend in general and a true friend? Do we limit our friendships?
  + Main promise: John 4:23-24 “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
  + Homework assignment- Book of Colossians
  + Memory Verse of the week- John 4:24 “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
* **Session 10**, waiting on the Lord
  + Discuss: What picture comes to mind when we bring up the topic of waiting on the Lord? (Passive and Active waiting)
  + Main promise: Isaiah 40:28-41:1 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

"Keep silence before Me, O coastlands, And let the people renew their strength! Let them come near, then let them speak; Let us come near together for judgment.

* **Wrap up (part of session 10)**, tying it all together
  + Review the 8 stages we have worked through in Meeting God in His promises.
    - Satisfying our hunger and thirst about God’s existence: Jeremiah 29:13-14a And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD
    - Answering the fundamental questions of life, Who am I? Why am I here? What is this Life all about? Psalm 34:8 Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!
    - Learning ‘Who’ God is. Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
    - What exactly is God’s purpose in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ? John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.
    - Created in God’s image, Separated from God, Reconciled to God through Jesus. John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."
    - The role, fruit, and gifts of the Holy Spirit. John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”
    - Embracing Maturity, Departing from Iniquity. (A tree is known by its roots.) 2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."
    - Becoming a friend of God. John 4:23-24 “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
  + (Anonymous 3 x 5 card exercise) The premises this Life Group has hoped to satisfy.
    - For which of these did you receive satisfaction or significant insight into during your participation as a member of this Life Group?
    - For which of these do you still feel the need for further satisfaction? (Group discussion regarding next steps for each answer.)
  + (Anonymous 3x5 card exercise)
    - Did you read the Book of Matthew as part of the Life Group Homework? Percent completed?
    - Did you read- the selected Psalms, Book of Ephesians, Book of Philippians, Book of Colossians as part of the Life Group Homework? Which ones did you fully complete?
    - Do you now have an established and regular quiet time appointment with the Lord most days of the week? Did that start because of this group?
    - How many of the 8 memory verses did you work on memorizing?
* **Service project session** (Life Group co-leader and Coordinator lead group to seek the Lord for what this is to be, if NL decides on a project for all groups then lead group to seek the Lord as to how we are to be involved)
* **Group Fellowship session**, Life Group co-leader leads group to seek the Lord regarding what this should be like and works with LG Coordinator to pick a date and make this happen

**For all Homework:**

* Draw near to God, attitude of prayer and expectancy
* Read through the assignment during quiet time
* Look for an record the promises, record any questions
* Take all questions to God in listening prayer
* Bring any discussion questions to next group meeting

**Premises which this Life Group hopes to satisfy in the hearts and minds of its members as we meet God in His promises:** (ask about these during discussion time, use these to bring things up, where are we in these? Are we making progress, advancing?)

* God is Good
* We can trust Him
* He has accepted us
* Everything is about Jesus
* He is the potter and we are the clay
* We are stewards and not owners
* Jesus is coming, this world is passing
* Eternal Life is experienced through Knowing God