



JANUARY 14 GREATER THINGS ANCHORED



POTLUCK & COVENANT WEEK

This week, we start our winter session of Life Groups with a dinner and covenant meeting. Your Life Group Leaders should have contacted you by now to make sure you know the time and location of the meeting, as well as what to expect for the first gathering. If you have not heard from your Life Group leaders, please contact Stacy Sullivan at (818) 709-0113, ext. 105, and she will help you get connected.

The Life Group Covenant explains the purpose of your Life Group, clarifies the expectations for being a part of your Life Group, and explains what you are committing to for this session. Your covenant will look different based on whether you are in a digital (Zoom) group or an in-person group.

As you prepare for your meeting, make sure to take some time to answer the questions in the study and then bring them with you to your first meeting.

Finally, we are providing less space for answers on this sheet, so make sure to have a journal handy to write down your answers.

Enjoy!



GETTING STARTED

The last three weeks we have been in a series titled, *Greater Things*. In this series we have been learning that God has so much more for us to see and experience in our lives. To experience more requires a new understanding of how to connect with Him deeply on a consistent basis, which allows us to hear Him clearly, and obey His leading in our lives.

As you begin the study, take a moment to reflect on the verse below:

*And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us... **Ephesians 3:17-20***



GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

This year, for your annual 2-week vacation, you will be staying local—enjoying a “*staycation*.” On this *staycation*, you can only travel within a 90-mile radius of your home. Where do you go and what do you do? Why? (FYI—you may do more than one thing.)



STUDY QUESTIONS

1. The primary passage from the *Greater Things* series is Ephesians 3:14-21. Read through this passage slowly two or three times.
 - a. Write down any words or phrases that God highlighted for you.
 - b. What is it about those words or phrases that caught your eye?
2. Two Weekends ago Dre shared the example of Michael Jordan being the GOAT. (Greatest Of All Time). He shared that Michael became the GOAT because “...*he had a whole life architecture that was dedicated to training, practicing, growth and getting better.*”
 - a. What is most powerful to you about this quote?
 - b. Moving away from Michael Jordan and applying this mentality to your life, as a Christ-follower in 2024, what do you think would happen in your spiritual life if you applied this same level of commitment, not to perfection but getting better, to your spiritual training?
3. Dre also shared that *Growth Is Intentional, Not Accidental*. This requires that we have an intentional growth plan for our own spiritual growth. He went on to share that the Spiritual Disciplines are part of our *training for getting better*—developing a more intimate relationship with God.
 - a. What has been your experience with the Spiritual Disciplines?
4. This last weekend, Dre concluded the series and unpacked four Spiritual Disciplines which, when put into practice in our daily time with God, anchor us deeper in Jesus.
 - a. Silence & Solitude
 - b. The Word
 - c. Prayer
 - d. Fasting
 - Which of these Spiritual Disciplines would be easiest for you? Which would be most challenging for you?
 - Take some time now and put one of these Spiritual Disciplines into practice.
 - What would your relationship with Jesus look like on December 31, 2024, if you made it your habit to daily spend time with Jesus, asking Him to simply meet you and mentor you as you practice some of these Spiritual Disciplines?
 - Take some time and make a simple plan, that you are able to maintain, to spend time with Jesus in 2024. Remember it's ok to take it slow—what Jesus wants most is your heart and consistent time with you.



LOOKING FORWARD

1. What are you most looking forward to in the *Hearing God* series that starts next week?
2. Is there a specific area of your life that you would like to see God move and grow you? Explain.



TOPICAL PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of each Life Group. Often those who are new to a Life Group are intimidated by praying aloud if they have never done it before. Others are so comfortable with prayer that they can take over the prayer time without meaning to. For these reasons, we suggest practicing topical prayer to help your group get comfortable praying together. Here are three basic guidelines:

1. Focus on a Single Topic/Request at a Time

Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request. Once a topic is introduced, one or two members pray for that request. Then the Life Group Leader will direct the prayer time by sharing the next topic/request.

2. Pray Several Times Together

By focusing on one topic at a time, each member has an opportunity to pray at different times for the requests they are most passionate about.

3. Keep Requests/Prayers Short and Simple

By keeping both requests and prayers short and simple, everyone has a chance to share and pray. This helps those who are new to prayer feel more comfortable praying. It also helps everyone stay focused during your time of prayer together.