**LIFEGROUP STUDY**

**The ReBoot: “In A Group”**

**20210926**

**LEADER NOTES**

**OVERVIEW**

Welcome to a brand new season of LifeGroups at Creekside! Our series, ReBoot, is all about this season we are in where many things are re-starting, re-building, re-energizing after the summer and after a long season of pandemic. ReBoot is all about how God wants to do something new in our lives and in our church. It’s time to ReBoot! A key way we fulfill our mission to Follow Jesus, Love God and Love People, is to be “In A Group”. We were not made to do life alone. God is a community of love and we will experience the fullest life when we are a part of a community of love. What does it look like to ReBoot as a LifeGroup? How can we build a LifeGroup where we Follow Jesus, Love God and Love People? Are you ready to ReBoot? Let’s dive in!

**ICEBREAKER** It’s Time to ReBoot!

September is a season where many of us experience a ReBoot. Students return to school, daily routines are re-established and many ministries at Creekside re-launch. **What ReBoot experience have you had this month? How is the ReBoot impacting you so far?**

**STUDY**

1. Think back to Pete’s talk on Sunday about community. **What comes to mind when you think about community?  What experiences have shaped you?**

LEADER NOTE: The word, “community” gets used a lot these days to describe groups and gatherings of people. Your LifeGroup members may be part of a sports community or dog walkers community or a neighbourhood community. All of these can be worthwhile, but biblical community is different. It is the highest ideal of community because it is founded on and empowered by Jesus.

1. Read Luke 24:13-35 out loud together.
* **Where do you experience yourself to be on the road between the now and not yet?**

LEADER NOTE: In Luke 24, Cleopas and his companion are walking the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They are on their way, but they have not yet arrived at their destination. This is a metaphor of life. Life is a journey we travel between the now and the not yet. As you prepare for this study, think about your own life experience. Share a story with your group of where you are currently on the road between the now and the not yet. As a LifeGroup, you can encourage and pray for one another along the way.

1. **What is your first inclination when you find yourself on your own Emmaus Road -  to seek out spiritual companions who can walk the road with you or to take the journey alone?**

LEADER NOTE: All of us are wired differently. For some, we prefer to journey alone. Others of us naturally gravitate toward seeking out companions to journey with. There are benefits to both spending time on our own with God and journeying with others. In talking about this question, help your group members see how journeying together is part of how God wants us to grow (see Hebrews 10:25).

1. **How do you respond to the idea that listening can be an act of service to others?  How often do you serve others in this way?**

LEADER NOTE: Listening is a key way we serve one another and show God’s love. Listening means deferring what we want to say to take time to hear what the other has to say. Listening is about asking questions that draw out the other person and invite them to share their story. Listening is hard work! As a group, you have opportunity to listen to one another. As a leader, you can create moments in your group where this can happen. One idea is to do this during prayer time. Have your group members pair up together and ask one another – “how can I pray for you today?”

1. Think back over your life of a time when the presence of Jesus made an ordinary moment extraordinary.**What was that like for you?**

LEADER NOTE: Cleopas and his companion thought their journey from Jerusalem back home to Emmaus was going to be ordinary – just another journey they had walked many times before. But Jesus’ presence that day made their journey extraordinary, as He shared Scriptures with them and broke bread in their home. Like Cleopas and his companion, our ordinary moment or day can become extraordinary when Jesus shows up! There are many ways this can happen – through a worship song that touches our heart, a Scripture verse that speaks to our circumstances, a friend who calls at just the right time. Prompt your group members with some of the ways Jesus presence can make our ordinary day extraordinary, then ask them to share an example.

1. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote about how many people have an idealized vision of what Christian community will look like.  He calls it their “wish dream”.  In this wish dream they attempt to control God’s work among His community.  Instead, Bonhoeffer writes that we should, “Do what is given to you, and do it well, and you will have done enough.... Live together in the forgiveness of your sins. Forgive each other every day from the bottom of your hearts.”
* **Have you ever had your “wish dream” of Christian community shattered?  What did that look like?**

LEADER NOTE: Each of your LifeGroup members has an idea of how they would like the group to be. Some want an intellectual group, where everyone contributes insightful comments about the Scriptures and spends lots of time preparing for an in-depth Bible study. Others hope their fellow group members will care deeply for them by asking how they are doing and listening well as they share their lives. We try to control our group experience, but it doesn’t work. The more we get to know our fellow group members, the more our dream of an ideal community of people is shattered. We disappoint one another by not doing what we hope the others will do, or saying what we had hoped they would say. Bonhoeffer writes that it is a good thing when our dream of community is shattered, because we are then ready to do life together as broken people. The question – “have you ever had your “wish dream” of community shattered” is not meant to be a time to complain, but to share with one another what you’ve learned about serving others in group and living in the continual attitude of forgiveness and grace toward one another.

“Unfortunately, today, because there is so much isolation and loneliness, people often get confused about what they are looking for in community. They are unable to discriminate between companionship of interested people and the community of people who can help them seek God. Spiritual community makes real our seeking and supports us in that seeking.” – Rose Mary Dougherty

1. **What do you think this quote means?**

LEADER NOTE: The community we think we want is often different from the community God knows we need. Biblical community is a place where we are challenged to grow our walk with God, to seek Him at this stage of our journey and to follow Jesus well. Part of this journey happens as we move from seeing LifeGroup as *me* focused – ie. “how will this group benefit me?” to *we* focused “How is God calling me to serve and grow in this community?”

1. **What kind of community are you looking for?**

LEADER NOTE: This is a challenging question for us as we ReBoot this fall. Am I looking for a community where I will be comfortable and affirmed in all of whom I already am? Or, am I seeking a community whom I can journey with on the Road to Emmaus? Am I willing to allow my community to be used by God to challenge me to take new steps and make deeper commitments to Follow Jesus, Love God and Love People?

“The more genuine and the deeper our community becomes, the more will everything else between us recede, the more clearly and purely will Jesus Christ and his work become the one and only thing that is vital between us. We have one another only through Christ, but through Christ we do have one another, wholly, and for all eternity.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**EXPERIENCING GOD – THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

The following is an optional exercise you can do together in LifeGroup or encourage group members to do on their own. If you are doing this in group, you may want to break into smaller groups of two or three people. The goal of this exercise is to open ourselves to hear from God on our Road to Emmaus.

Exercise:

1. Pray - Begin your time in prayer. Quiet yourself before God. Ask Him to make Himself known to you, to prepare your heart to hear from Him.
2. Read - back through Luke 24:13-35 slowly. Read through it again as you visualize the scene of the two disciples journeying on the Road to Emmaus .
3. Reflect - Put yourself in the scene. What was that day like? What was the road like? See the Man walking toward you. How do you feel as He shares Scriptures with you as you walk along? If you are able, go for a walk and imagine Jesus walking beside you. What is He saying to you? Next, Imagine sitting down to eat with this Man the other disciples. How do you feel as He breaks the bread and offers you a piece? How does His presence encourage you?
4. Respond – Write a prayer to God. You may want to begin with something like – “Jesus, thank You for speaking to me today …” or “Jesus, I am ready to hear from You …”. Or, draw a picture of your Road to Emmaus. How does it differ from the account in Luke 24? How is it the same?

**PRAYER**

* Creekside ReBoot: pray for Creekside Church ministries as we reboot this fall. Ask God to provide volunteers to serve as we rebuild our teams and to change lives through our kids, youth and adult ministries.
* GroupLaunch: pray for our LifeGroup launch this fall season. Ask God to prompt new leaders to sign on to begin new LifeGroups. Ask Him to draw unconnected people to sign up for a group and become part of a community this fall.
* Your LifeGroup: Ask God to help you journey well together this fall. Ask Him to grow your group to serve one another and to do life together in a spirit of grace and forgiveness.

**LIFEGROUP GUIDELINES**

The following guidelines will help you lay the foundation for a healthy LifeGroup experience. Feel free to modify these guidelines to make them your own.

**AS A GROUP WE AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING VALUES:**

**Clear Purpose:** To pursue healthy spiritual lives as we FOLLOW JESUS, LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE.

**Group Attendance:** Give priority to the group meeting (call if I’m going to be absent or late)

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

**Confidentiality:** To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group.

**Welcome Newcomers:** To invite friends who might benefit from this study and to warmly welcome newcomers.

**Building Relationships:** To get to know the other members of the group and pray for them regularly.

**Responsibility:** To take an active role in the responsibilities of this group.

**WHAT WE WANT TO DO ABOUT:**

Refreshments/Mealtimes:

Childcare:

When and where we will meet: (consider rotating homes and responsibilities)

We will do our best to attend the following service together: