

LIFEGROUP LEADER GUIDE

20251130

Holy Drip – Week 3

“Bear with each other and forgive one another... Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” Colossians 3:13

Opening Prayer

Father, thank You for Your endless patience and forgiveness toward us. As we gather, soften our hearts and help us reflect the grace You’ve shown us. Holy Spirit, guide our conversation—give us humility, honesty, and courage to grow. Form Christ in us as we learn to bear with and forgive one another. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

1. What insights, comments, or questions do you have about this week's sermon?

Leader Insight:

This opening question warms up the group and gives people a chance to connect the sermon to their personal experience. Listen for themes of conviction, confusion, or encouragement—you can gently highlight anything tied to forgiveness, patience, or Christlikeness.

2. Think of a time you were forgiven when you didn't deserve it. How did receiving that forgiveness feel? Does remembering that moment make forgiving others easier?

Leader Insight:

Sharing these stories can create vulnerability and gratitude. Encourage people to focus on the *impact* of receiving grace—humility, relief, restoration. Help them see how remembering God’s forgiveness creates an emotional foundation for forgiving others.

3. Forgiveness is not an emotion; it's a decision. Where in your life right now do you need to make the decision to forgive even though the feelings haven't caught up yet?

Leader Insight:

Some may share specifics; others may be cautious. Normalize the struggle—feelings often lag behind

obedience. Remind the group that forgiveness is a choice rooted in trust in God, not the other person's behavior. You may need to redirect if the conversation becomes too detailed or emotionally intense.

4. Without naming them, think of someone in your life right now that is genuinely hard to "bear with." What specific behaviors or quirks make it difficult?

Leader Insight:

Encourage honesty without venting or gossip. The purpose is self-awareness, not character assassination. Help participants recognize patterns in themselves: impatience, triggers, unrealistic expectations, or pride. Bearing with someone reveals our own spiritual growth areas.

5. In what ways did Jesus model "bearing with" His disciples' repeated failures, doubts, and betrayal? Which example most encourages you right now to be like Jesus?

Leader Insight:

Guide people toward specific moments:

- Peter's impulsiveness
- Thomas's doubt
- The disciples falling asleep
- Arguments about greatness
- Judas' betrayal

Highlight Jesus' consistency—He corrected gently, stayed relationally present, and never withdrew His love. Emphasize His patience as a model, not a guilt-trip.

6. Bearing with others is "the slow, patient work of love." What relationship in your life needs more "slow, patient work" right now?

Leader Insight:

This question helps participants identify where God may be inviting spiritual growth. Encourage practical reflections—family, coworkers, ministry teams, marriage. Remind them that the goal isn't perfection from others but Christlike perseverance from us.

7. Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die. Have you ever experienced this?

Leader Insight:

People may share painful stories. Affirm their honesty and gently keep the conversation from spiraling

into bitterness. Highlight the emotional, spiritual, and even physical weight of unforgiveness. Encourage testimonies of healing when forgiveness was finally extended.

8. Forgiveness doesn't mean trust is automatically restored. Share a situation where you've forgiven someone but still needed healthy boundaries. What does that look like for you?

Leader Insight:

This is a crucial teaching moment:

- Forgiveness = releasing the offense
- Reconciliation = rebuilding the relationship
- Trust = earned with consistent behavior

Remind the group that boundaries are biblical and wise. Encourage examples that show both grace and wisdom.

9. If bearing with and forgiving one another is one of the primary ways we "put on Christ" and display Him to the world, how might our relationships become one of the most powerful evangelistic tools we have?

Leader Insight:

Help the group think outwardly:

- People see Christ in patient marriages
- Families that extend grace
- Friendships that repair instead of fracture
- Churches that handle conflict differently

Gospel witness is often more visible in relationships than in words.

10. Who is one person this week you could take a practical step toward "bearing with" or forgiving (a text, a prayer, a conversation, letting something go)?

Leader Insight:

End with action. Encourage small, concrete steps. Offer to pray for one another's situations. This creates accountability and spiritual momentum.
