



# LIFE GROUP GUIDE

CONNECT • GROW • SHARE • PRACTICE

Oct 2, 5

Hebrews 3:1-19

## Connect (15-20 mins)

Serve Fresno Update: our hope and vision is that serving our city would now happen through lifegroups! We are excited to share that we now have serve opportunities during the week of **Oct 26th through Nov 1st to sign up to serve**. If your group is already in a regular rhythm of serving, that's great! We'd love to hear what you are doing to serve regularly. For those that aren't serving regularly, we want to invite you into a serve opportunity using the link below as a way to learn more about our local partners and the needs of our city.

While we celebrate the years in the past where we've had hundreds/thousands of people who served during the week of Serve Fresno, our desire moving forward as a church is to see groups serving somewhere on an ongoing basis. So rather than a big church wide push for Serve Fresno one time a year, we will work with our local missions coordinator to help facilitate quarterly serve opportunities to help your group find a place to serve. You can sign up for the serve opportunities at the link below or if there is something your group would like to do as an ongoing serve opportunity, we'd love to hear what you are thinking! Our missions team has filters and connections to help mobilize your group to make an impact in the city.

1. Take time in your group to discuss how your group might serve this fall. You can sign up for a project here: <https://fresnorm.volunteerhub.com/vv2/lp/thewell>

## Grow (5-10 mins)

2. In last week's practice section, there was a challenge to seek sound doctrine in the Bible that will tether you to God's Word when you experience spiritual drift. What were some of the doctrines that you thought of? Share why they are important.

## Share (30-40 mins)

3. The sermon mentioned the difference between doubt and unbelief. How does the posture of heart from a follower of Christ experiencing doubt differ from someone whose heart is hardened with unbelief? In what ways have you experienced doubt and how did the Lord or His people meet you there?
4. Read John 5:45–47. The Jews honored Moses, but they failed to see that Moses ultimately pointed to Jesus. In your own life, share about a time you elevated someone or something above Jesus. Why is it dangerous or harmful to put people of faith on a pedestal?
5. In Hebrews 3:13, the author urges believers to encourage one another daily so they won't be "hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." Who around you helps strengthen your faith in this way? What practical steps can you take to both encourage others more intentionally and also allow yourself to be encouraged?



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## Practice: Embracing the Gospel Overtime

In the sermon, Brad mentioned both the raven and the dove on the Ark. The Raven went out and lived off the death of the world and didn't return whereas the dove went out into the world and could not find rest, and returned. The Raven is someone who has been around the things of God but their heart has not changed, whereas the Dove is someone who has genuinely embraced the Gospel. A raven cannot live like a dove over time and a dove cannot live like a raven over time.

*“An assumption of the gospel is that genuine faith is authenticated through perseverance until the end and genuine faith eventually produces personal transformation.”*

Authentic faith always bears fruit. Read Galatians 5:19–26. As you look at the list, which of these qualities or practices do you see in your own life—whether works of the flesh or fruit of the Spirit?

## Deeds of the Flesh

- While those that have truly embraced the gospel at a point in time are eternally secure in Christ, they still wrestle with sin on this side of heaven (see 1 John 1:8; Ecclesiastes 7:20). Reread Galatians 5:19-21 and pray the following passage to yourself:

“Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
Try me and know my anxious thoughts;  
And see if there be any hurtful way in me,  
And lead me in the everlasting way.”

*Psalm 139:23-24*

- After praying this, spend time reflecting on your life and where you still see the deeds of the flesh listed in Galatians 5:19-21. Then read Galatians 5:16-18, 24-26. Ask God in prayer to help you walk by the Spirit as you continue to crucify the flesh in your life.

## Fruit of the Spirit

- Read Galatians 5:22-23. Spend some time in reflection on where you see the fruit of the Spirit in your life. Consider how God is producing either perseverance or transformation in you currently and thank God in prayer for growing you by the power of the Spirit.

**For next week:** Read Hebrews 4:1-16:

Write in a journal or the margins of your bible

- What did this passage teach you about God?
- What questions do you have?
- What is one thing you can apply to your life from this passage?