

# CORE Group Guide

A CORE group is 2-4 people of the same gender who regularly meet to follow Jesus together by practicing some of the most challenging commands and disciplines of Christian life. We want to be people who love and obey Jesus in all that we do. These four practices, when pursued intentionally, lead to fruitful lives that transform us as well as those around us.

## Confession

*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.* - James 5:16

Confession is not intended to create guilt, shame, or condemnation but to free us from it. When we confess our sins to one another, we become confident and joyful in God's freedom. Each confession is a chance to experience his grace as we experience God's life-changing forgiveness.

Discussion Questions:

- Where have you wrestled with temptation this week?
- Where have you given into temptation this week?
- What steps will you take to avoid temptation?

## Others

*In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.* - Luke 15:10

We want to make time for what was most important to Jesus: pursuing people. Jesus said he came to seek and save the lost, and we see him moved with deep compassion for those far from God. The goal in this section is to be intentional with the Person of Peace that God is leading you to B.L.E.S.S. We should never coerce or manipulate people, but partner with the Holy Spirit to make the love of Jesus a reality to others.

First, spend time praying for your Person of Peace. The following prayers are a starting point, not a formula.

- I Pray, Lord, that you draw \_\_\_\_ to yourself. (1 John 6:44)
- I pray that \_\_\_\_ seeks to know you, God. (Acts 17:27)
- I pray that \_\_\_\_ hears and believes the Word of God. (1 Thes. 2:13)
- I ask you, God, to prevent Satan from blinding \_\_\_\_ to the truth. (2 Cor 4:4; 2 Tim 2:25-26)
- Holy Spirit, I ask you to convict \_\_\_\_ of their need of Christ's redemption for their sins. (John 16:8; 1 Thes. 1:5)
- I ask you, God, for opportunities and boldness to share your love in word and action with \_\_\_\_\_. (Matt. 9:37-38)
- I ask that you give me and my fellow disciples to give the right words to share with \_\_\_\_\_. (Col. 4:3-6; Eph. 6:19-20)
- Lord, I pray that \_\_\_\_ turns from his/ her sin towards life in you. (1 Thes. 1:9-10)

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- Lord, I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ would put all of his/ her trust in you. (John 1:12, 5:24)
- Lord, I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ will confess Jesus as the Lord of his/ her life, take root and grow in his/ her faith, and bear much fruit for your glory. (Rom 10:9-10; Col. 2:6-7; Luke 8:15)

## Discussion Questions:

- Have you been loving and praying for \_\_\_\_\_ this week?
- How has God given you any opportunities to love and share with \_\_\_\_\_?
- What specific step will you take to intentionally share Jesus' love with \_\_\_\_\_ this week?
- Pray for one another to be bold and effective with those God is calling you to share His love.

## Reading

*For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. -Hebrews 4:12*

Reading is about immersing ourselves in scripture so that we can know God's heart, hear His voice, and follow His will. Choose what scripture your group will read through until the next meeting. We suggest reading at least a chapter per day while also using the SOAP method to dive deeper into a word, verse, or portion that the Holy Spirit highlights to you.

## Discussion Questions:

- Tell us about your reading this week. What stood out to you?
- How will you act on what you have heard God say?
- What convicted you from this week's reading?
- What encouraged you from this week's reading?

## Encouragement

*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another- and all the more as you see the Day approaching. -Hebrews 10:23-25*

Encourage literally means to "put courage" into someone. Following Jesus comes with challenges and discouraging situations. This is a time to call out the gifts, passions, and vision to affirm the work that God is doing in each another.

## Discussion Questions:

- What do you sense God doing in you that you need to respond to?
- What do you sense God doing around you that He is inviting you into?
- What do you sense God doing through you that you need courage for?
- Make space to listen to the Holy Spirit for any verses or words He might be giving you to encourage one another.