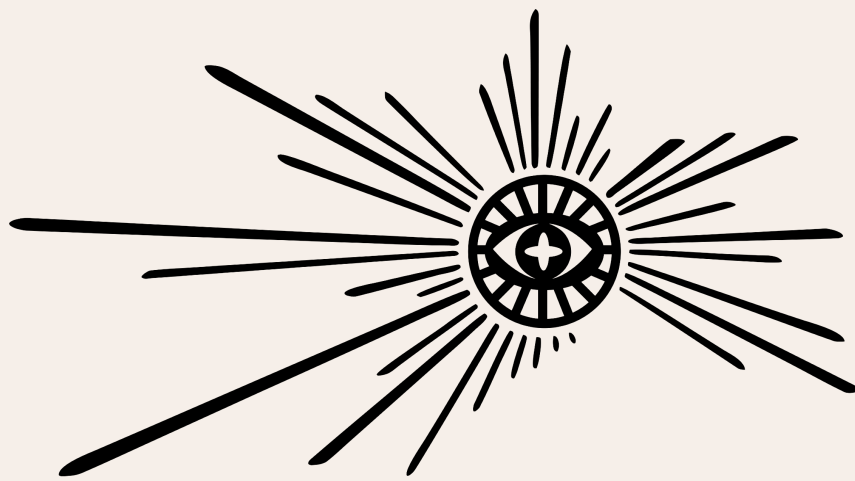




See Jesus

LIFE GROUP LEADER'S GUIDE

You're looking for Jesus, and He's closer than you think.

“One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” - John 9:25

WOODSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

A companion to the Woodsider Vol. 7 Life Group Discussion Guides

Welcome Life Group Leader

Thank you for leading through the See Jesus campaign. Over seven weeks this fall, your group will walk through the Life Group Discussion Guides in *The Woodsider*, Vol. 7. These conversations are designed to help your group members see Jesus more clearly and join the mission of helping others see Him.

Our heart for 71 years at Woodside has been to help others see Jesus. As we enter this next chapter of our church, we want to mobilize every single member of Woodside for that mission. And the journey that you will lead your group through is a big part of that. Over the next several weeks, your group will remember how Jesus opened their eyes, practice telling that story, identify people around them who are still searching, and take concrete steps to Pray, Tell, and Give so that others can see Jesus.

As you embark on leading this journey, let us encourage you. You don't need to have everything all figured out. This is a journey we are taking together as a church, and we are here to help you. All we are asking as you prepare to lead is that you simply embrace the journey yourself. Be authentic, open, and honest as you lead. Allow the Lord to lead you personally in helping others see Jesus. And as He does, He will work through you to lead your group. You don't have to have all the answers, just a willingness to walk the journey. So, let's begin...

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This Leader's Guide runs alongside the discussion guides your members have in *The Woodsider*, Vol. 7. It is not a script. It is a preparation tool to help you understand the goal of each week, lead the discussion with clarity, and help your group take a next step. For each week you will find:

- **Overview:** A look at what each lesson is about and how we designed it to help your group take the next step in their journey of seeing Jesus and helping others to see Him.
- **Understanding the Text:** Brief notes to help you prepare biblically. These are notes to help you facilitate Biblical discussion, not notes that must be taught.
- **Leading the Discussion:** Practical tips for how to move through each section of the guide.
- **Additional Resources:** Woodside campaign materials and outside resources for leaders who want to go deeper.

As you prepare each week, here is a suggested weekly rhythm.

1. Read the passage
2. Read the Woodsider Discussion Guide
3. Read the leader guide
4. Choose the questions you want to prioritize. Most groups will not use every question. That is okay. Depth is more important than coverage.
5. Pray for your group.

The Seven-Week Journey

See Jesus is Woodside's church-wide effort to mobilize every Woodsider to help people see Jesus through three responses: Pray, Tell, & Give. The sermon series, "You're Looking for Jesus", runs alongside these seven weeks. However, the Life Group arc has its own journey. Groups are where people process, practice, and take next steps together. The Journey is as follows:

- **Your Story of Seeing Jesus (Weeks 1-2):** Remember how Jesus opened your eyes and practice telling that story clearly.
- **Everyone is Looking for Jesus (Weeks 3-4):** Identify who God has placed in your life and learn to listen for what they are really looking for.
- **Commit to Helping Others See (Weeks 5-6):** Help others see through committing to mobilization and generosity.
- **Everyday Mission (Week 7):** Build rhythms that continue after the campaign emphasis ends.

WK	DATES	TEXT	TITLE	GOAL
1	Sept 13-19	John 9:1-25	Your Story Tells God's Story	Recognize how Jesus opened your eyes and begin praying for someone who is looking for Jesus.
2	Sept 20-26	John 9:24-41	How to Tell Your Story	Identify God's grace in your story and practice sharing it clearly.
3	Sept 27-Oct 3	Luke 10:1-11	Identifying People of Peace	Discern people of peace and take one intentional step together.
4	Oct 4-10	John 4:4-29	Everyone is Searching for Something	Listen for deeper longings and connect them to Jesus.
5	Oct 11-17	Acts 1:8; 2:42-47; 8:1-8	Mobilization Commitment	Participate in God's mission.
6	Oct 18-24	2 Cor 8:1-15; 9:5-15	Generosity Commitment	Help fuel mission through worshipful generosity.
7	Oct 25-31	Matt 5:13-16; Rev 3:14-22	Living as a Mobilized + Generous Church	Build rhythms so mission becomes everyday life.

THE RHYTHM OF EACH DISCUSSION

Each guide follows the same movements, moving from Scripture towards practical mission. Each guide invites a practice to be engaged by the group during the week to help them in learning to help others see Jesus. The outline for each part of the discussion guide is as follows:

- **Opening Question:** This question is designed to introduce the group to the theme of the discussion in a light-hearted and easily accessible way. The hope is to get people talking and sharing so they are ready to engage the deeper content together.
- **Start Here:** This section is designed to provide information that will orient the group towards the theme and set up the discussion that follows.
- **Worship | Explore God's Word:** The group reads the passage and observes what the text says. The aim of this section is to have your group really process through what the text is saying and what it means for them.
- **Community | Apply to our Lives:** The passage turns toward the hearts and stories of the people in your group. The aim is to have the group spend time thinking through how the passage applies to their lives both personally and to the group communally.
- **Mission | Apply to the World:** The group moves toward the people God has placed around them. The aim is to have your group begin to think about how this moves them towards helping others see Jesus.
- **This Week:** This is a specific action that we are asking every group member to practice that week. The aim is to take what we have engaged and make it practical in order to help others see Jesus.
- **Close in Prayer:** The group ends by praying in light of the passage and the week's focus. Do not treat prayer as a quick wrap-up. This is where the group depends on Jesus together.

Leading Well Through the Campaign

FACILITATION PRINCIPLES

- **Choose the best questions.** Each guide gives more than most groups can cover well. Pick the questions that best serve your people and the goal of the week.
- **Silence is ok.** After you ask a question, give people time to think. You don't have to rescue the room too quickly. It can be helpful to just let people process for a few moments.
- **Share first when it helps.** In personal sections, a brief and honest answer from you can give the group permission to be honest too.
- **It is okay to say, 'I do not know.'** **The goal is not to prove expertise.** When a hard question comes up, acknowledge it, write it down, and follow up after you have investigated it.
- **Create rhythms of sharing.** If someone names a step, ask about it the next week.
- **Pray by name.** Keep a running list of the people your group names throughout the campaign. Use it weekly. This may become one of the most important practices your group carries forward.

KEY DATES FOR YOUR GROUP

- **Sept 13 - Nov 1:** The *You're Looking for Jesus* sermon series runs alongside the seven-week Life Group arc.
- **Week 5 (Oct 11-17):** Mobilization commitment conversation. Prepare this week in advance.
- **Week 6 (Oct 18-24):** Generosity commitment conversation. Prepare this week in advance as well. Both commitment conversations should happen before November 1.
- **Nov 1 & Nov 8:** Commitment Sundays for church-wide mobilization and generosity response.
- **Nov 22:** See Jesus Celebration Sunday.

YOUR TOOLKIT

Alongside this guide, you and your members have:

- **The Woodsider, Vol. 7**
- **Commitment card**
- **Video resources**
- **Additional website resources**

Week 1 - The Story of Seeing Jesus

TEXT: John 9:1-25 WEEK OF: September 13-19

LESSON OVERVIEW & GOAL

The goal this week: help group members recognize how Jesus opened their eyes, name the people God used in their story, and begin praying for someone who is spiritually searching.

This first conversation sets the frame for the whole campaign. John 9 is the anchor text, and the healed man's testimony gives us simple language for the journey: 'though I was blind, now I see.' The aim is to help each person locate their own story inside the larger story of Jesus giving sight. By the end of the night, your group should be able to name how Jesus has helped them see and identify one person they will begin praying for.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

Use these notes to prepare:

- **The disciples want to explain suffering (vv. 2-3).** The rabbinical view at the time was that you wouldn't charge God with sin, so any suffering must be because of the sin of the person or the person's family. Jesus responds by rejecting the notion that suffering and a specific sin always have a cause-and-effect relationship. Sometimes, suffering is directly related to a specific sin, but sometimes, it is due to the general brokenness in the world. Do not let the group get stuck in speculation. Help them see Jesus' purpose.
- **Pool of Siloam (v. 7).** The Pool of Siloam is where the priest gathered the water for the Feast of Tabernacles, which was a representation of God's blessing on His people. Paired with the "Light of the World" statement, this reminds the audience of what Jesus said in John 7 – 8.
- **Different people respond differently (vv. 8-25).** The neighbors are curious, the parents are afraid, and the Pharisees are skeptical. Encounters with Jesus do not always produce the same response in everyone.
- **Physical sight points to spiritual sight (v. 5, v. 25).** Jesus is the light of the world. The man's testimony is simple and incomplete, but it is honest: 'I was blind, now I see.' That is enough for a faithful witness to begin.

LEADING THE DISCUSSION

- **Worship:** Keep the group in the passage. Ask them to notice Jesus, the man, the disciples, the neighbors, the parents, and the Pharisees. This will help them see the contrast between spiritual sight and spiritual blindness.
- **Community:** Invite people to name someone God used to help them see Jesus. This is a good on ramp for quieter members because it starts with gratitude rather than pressure. It also gives a new group a good opportunity to get to know one another.
- **Mission:** This is just the first step in a journey towards opening our eyes to see people who are looking for Jesus. Ask the group to name people who seem spiritually searching and begin a shared prayer list.

- **Prayer:** Teach a simple prayer of 'Lord, help me to see You.' Encourage the group to pray it for themselves and for the people they named.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Woodside:

- **The Woodsider, Vol. 7**
- **Sermon:** 'We're All Blind' (John 9:1-41), preached September 13. This sermon introduces our main theme for this campaign: You're looking for Jesus, and He's closer than you think.

For deeper study:

- **Bible Project, 'Gospel of John Ch. 1-12' overview video:** Helpful context for understanding how John 9 fits into the structure of John, especially the signs in the first half of the book.
- **D. A. Carson, The Gospel According to John, Pillar New Testament Commentary:** One of the best commentaries on the Gospel of John.
- **ESV Study Bible's notes on John 9:** Helpful summaries of key background information in the text.

Week 2 - How to Tell Your Story

TEXT: John 9:24-41 WEEK OF: September 20-26

LESSON OVERVIEW & GOAL

The goal this week: help group members identify God's grace in their own story and practice sharing it clearly and naturally so others can see Jesus.

This is a practice week. Protect time for people to begin telling their stories. The healed man does not have a polished presentation. He simply tells what Jesus did for him. Your group should leave with two convictions: I have a story, even if it is not dramatic, and Jesus is the hero of my story.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

- **The power of a simple testimony (v. 25).** The man cannot answer every objection, but he can say what Jesus has done. Personal testimony does not replace the Gospel, but it gives people a concrete witness to the Gospel's power.
- **His understanding grows as he speaks (vv. 27-33).** Across the chapter, he moves from 'the man called Jesus' to 'a prophet' to a man 'from God' to 'Lord, I believe.' Sometimes telling the story helps clarify the story.
- **Jesus finds him again (v. 35).** After the man is cast out, Jesus seeks him and reveals Himself more fully. Jesus pursues people and it's a good reminder that our stories start with God's gracious move towards us.
- **The Son of Man (v. 35).** The Son of Man is Jesus' favorite title for Himself. It is taken from Daniel 7 and is the title of the promised Messiah that God would send to bring redemption to His people and restoration for the world. Essentially, Jesus asks the man if he believes in Jesus as the Messiah.
- **Jesus Opens Eyes (vv. 35 – 41).** The healing of the blind man was always meant to be a sign of Jesus' greater work, the healing of spiritual blindness caused by our sin.

LEADING THE DISCUSSION

- **Worship:** Focus on why the man's testimony matters. The leaders can argue with his conclusions, but they cannot deny that something has changed. Focus on how the man experienced physical healing, but more importantly, that his spiritual healing came as He trusted in Jesus as the Messiah.
- **Community:** This is the center of the night. Use the Origin, Fall, Broken Solutions, Redemption, Restoration frame to help members identify the shape of their story. Consider pairs or triads so everyone gets to practice out loud. This can also be done outside of the meeting time if necessary. But organize and plan it during the meeting so that people have something tangible that they are committed to.
- **Mission:** Keep Jesus at the center. Testimony is not about making our lives impressive. It is about showing how Jesus met us, saved us, and is changing us.
- **Prayer:** Invite members to thank God for one specific act of grace in their story. Spoken gratitude is a simple form of testimony practice.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Woodside:

- **The Woodsider, Vol. 7**
- **Sermon:** 'We're All Looking' (Jeremiah 2:11-13), preached September 20. This sermon gives helpful language for describing the broken cisterns we run to apart from Jesus.
- **Missio Dei Life Groups Resource** (<https://woodsidebible.org/lead-a-group/leader-resources/>)

For deeper study:

- **Acts 26:1-29:** Paul's testimony before Agrippa gives a biblical example of before, encounter, and after.
- **Bible Project, 'The Story of the Bible' video:** A clear overview of the Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration arc used in the discussion.

Week 3 - Who Needs to See Jesus?

TEXT: Luke 10:1-11 WEEK OF: September 27 - October 3

LESSON OVERVIEW & GOAL

The goal this week: help group members discern the people of peace God has placed in their lives and take intentional steps toward them together.

The arc shifts this week from our story to actual people around us. Two convictions matter. First, God is already at work before we arrive. Mission is joining Him, not starting something on our own. Second, Jesus sends His people together. This is not meant to be a solo assignment. By the end of the night, members should have real names in mind and at least one possible next step toward those people.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

- **Prayer comes before strategy (v. 2).** Jesus tells them to pray to the Lord of the harvest. If someone cannot name a person of peace yet, prayer is the right first step.
- **Lead with your need (vv. 3-4). Jesus recognizes the challenge the disciples will face. But He sends** them out where they will need the hospitality and care of others. Often it is people of peace who meet our needs and care for us. Therefore, our own vulnerability with others can often be a doorway to connecting with people of peace.
- **The person of peace (vv. 5-7).** A person of peace welcomes relationship and is open to what you carry. The guide uses three marks: they enjoy being around you, they welcome you into their life, and they are open to spiritual conversations. This is not a target. It is a relationship God may already be opening.
- **Stay where there is openness (v. 7).** Jesus tells them to remain where they are received. That gives permission to invest deeply in a few responsive relationships instead of feeling responsible for everyone at once.

LEADING THE DISCUSSION

- **Worship:** Help the group see that God is already at work. Jesus is about to come, the harvest already belongs to God, and people of peace already exist.
- **Community:** Give real time to the question of group mission. Ask what your group could do together that an individual would not do alone: a meal, a service opportunity, a regular invitation, or a shared rhythm.
- **Mission:** Get specific names. Do not leave the conversation at the level of 'people out there.' Add names to the prayer list and make a note for follow-up.
- **Prayer:** Pray in accordance with Luke 10:2 for the named people, for your group, and for laborers for the harvest.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Woodside:

- **The Woodsider, Vol. 7**

- **Why Pray Life Group Resource** (<https://woodsidebible.org/lead-a-group/leader-resources/>)

For deeper study:

- **Jay Pathak & Dave Runyon, The Art of Neighboring:** Practical help for knowing and loving the people who already live around you.
- **Bible Project, 'Luke Ch. 9-19' overview video:** Helpful context for the sending of the seventy-two.
- **Darrell Bock, The Gospel of Luke, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament:** One of the best commentaries on The Gospel of Luke.

Week 4 - What People Are Really Looking For

TEXT: John 4:4-29 WEEK OF: October 4-10

LESSON OVERVIEW & GOAL

The goal this week: help group members see the deeper longings beneath people's stories and learn to connect those longings to the hope and satisfaction found in Jesus.

Week 3 asked who God has placed around us. Week 4 asks what those people are searching for. In John 4, Jesus starts with water, but He moves toward the deeper thirst in the woman's life. That is the skill we want to practice: listening beneath the surface. People may say they want love, security, success, purpose, or belonging. Under those longings is a deeper search that only Jesus can satisfy. Your group should leave more curious, more compassionate, and more ready to speak of Jesus naturally.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

- **Jesus crosses barriers (vv. 4-9).** Jesus initiates with a woman that a Jewish man would not normally engage. She was a Samaritan, a people who were culturally and racially separate from Jews and with whom there was great animosity. She is a woman, and men did not normally initiate conversation with women in public. She arrives at the well at midday, indicating at best an avoidance of people and at worst a social stigma. But Jesus moves toward someone others avoided.
- **Jesus moves from felt need to deeper thirst (vv. 10-15).** He begins with water and leads the conversation toward living water. He does not ignore desire. He redirects it to Himself.
- **Jesus tells the truth with grace (vv. 16-19).** He names the reality of her life without using it to shame her. Truth in Jesus' hands opens the way to grace and worship.
- **Jesus is willing to answer her questions (vv. 19-26).** Even when the woman changes the subject to religion, Jesus is willing to dialogue with her and answer her questions. But as He does so, He keeps redirecting her back to Himself.
- **The woman becomes a witness (vv. 28-29).** She leaves her jar, goes back to her town, and says, 'Come, see.' A person who has just encountered Jesus becomes part of helping others see Him.

LEADING THE DISCUSSION

- **Worship:** Focus on how Jesus moves the conversation. The pattern we see in the text is a felt need connected to a deeper longing, ultimately pointing to Jesus Himself.
- **Community:** Do not let this stay theoretical. Invite the group to consider where they still reach for substitutes instead of Jesus. People who are more open and vulnerable with their own struggles will grow in empathy in engaging the struggles of others.
- **Mission:** Test the See Jesus trailer before group. Use it to help members identify the longings people are expressing around them, even ones that we try to hide from others.

Then return to the names from Week 3 and ask what those people may be searching for beneath the surface.

- **Prayer:** Pray for eyes to see people with the compassion of Jesus, not as problems to solve but as people He is seeking.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Woodside:

- **The See Jesus trailer:** Required for this week's Look Out section. Test it before group.
- **The Woodsider, Vol. 7**
- **Sermons in the core-longings arc:** 'Looking for Love' (John 4), 'Looking for Purpose' (Acts 17), and 'Looking for Security' (Mark 10). These sermons give helpful language for the discussion.
- **Companion You're Looking for Jesus Podcast (YouTube):** Helpful video podcast exploring deeper questions of the text and culture.

For deeper study:

- **Bible Project, 'Water of Life' theme video:** Traces living water from Eden to John 4 to Revelation.
- **Timothy Keller, Encounters with Jesus:** The chapter on the Samaritan woman (The Insider and the Outcast) is helpful on longing and satisfaction.
- **Timothy Keller, Counterfeit Gods:** A great book for exploring the cultural idols that many people look to for satisfaction.

Week 5 - Mobilization: Helping Others See

TEXT: Acts 1:8; 2:42-47; 8:1-8 WEEK OF: October 11-17

COMMITMENT WEEK: This is one of the two most important weeks of the arc. Prepare in advance and make sure you understand the commitment process before group night.

LESSON OVERVIEW & GOAL

The goal this week: help group members move from receiving the Gospel to participating in God's mission through prayer and evangelism, personally, communally, and globally, and take the mobilization commitment step.

Everything so far has been preparing for this week. Your group has remembered their story, practiced telling it, named people, and listened for longings. Now the conversation turns toward response. Remember, this mission depends on Jesus' power, not ours. He gives the Spirit (Acts 1:8), and the Lord adds to His church (Acts 2:47). We join what He is already doing. Your goal is not to pressure anyone, but to invite them into committing to being a part of the mission of the church in helping people see Jesus.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

- **Power *for* witness (Acts 1:8). The Spirit is given for a purpose:** 'you will be my witnesses.' The movement is personal, regional, and global: Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and the end of the earth.
- **Community *as* witness (Acts 2:42-47).** The early church was devoted to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, prayer, generosity, and shared life. Their life together made Jesus visible, and the Lord added to their number.
- **Scattered people carry the Gospel (Acts 8:1-8).** Ordinary believers were scattered by persecution and went about preaching the word. Disruption became a sending. It is important for us to remember that work, neighborhoods, schools, moves, and interruptions can become places of mission.

LEADING THE DISCUSSION

- **Prepare before the meeting:** Make your own mobilization commitment first. Ask your director any lingering questions before group night.
- **Worship:** If time is tight, assign one Acts passage to each of three smaller groups and have them report back. Keep the focus on what God does and how His people participate.
- **Community:** Be careful of just focusing on the personal side of praying and telling. Part of mobilization is doing those things in the context of community. So make sure to take time to discuss as a group how God might be leading you when it comes to praying and telling so that others can see Jesus.
- **Mission:** This is an opportunity for your group to identify who God might be leading you towards. So, explore *who* God is leading you towards, and *then* ask *what* your group can do together. Make it concrete enough to put on a calendar.

- **Prayer:** Use Acts 4:29 – 31 as a guide to pray for God to mobilize you personally and to mobilize your group together for the sake of the Gospel.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Woodside:

- **The Woodsider, Vol. 7:** Goal #1 | 100% Engagement
- **Commitment card**
- **The QR digital toolkit:** Prayer prompts and outreach ideas your members can use right away.

For deeper study:

- **Bible Project, 'Acts Ch. 1-7' and 'Acts Ch. 8-12' overview videos:** Helpful context for the three Acts passages.
- **John Stott, The Message of Acts:** A great commentary on the Acts passages.
- **Jeff Vanderstelt, Gospel Fluency:** A great resource for helping understand how to speak the good news of Jesus into the everyday stuff of life.

Week 6 - Generosity: Fueling the Mission

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; 9:5-15 WEEK OF: October 18-24

COMMITMENT WEEK: This is the generosity conversation. Prepare in advance. Both commitment conversations should happen before November 1.

LESSON OVERVIEW & GOAL

The goal this week: help group members see generosity as worship, as love for others, and as a way to fuel the mission of helping people see Jesus. It is also to help them prepare for a generosity commitment.

This may be the most sensitive week in the guide, so lead with clarity and care. Do not apologize for the text, but do not pressure people either. Paul grounds generosity in grace, especially in 2 Corinthians 8:9. Jesus became poor so that we might become rich in Him. The question is not, 'What is the minimum I owe?' The question is, 'In light of the grace I have received, what is God inviting me to give?' Your role is not to collect money. Your role is to disciple people toward glad, prayerful, sacrificial generosity.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

- **Grace comes before giving (8:1-5).** The Macedonians gave out of joy even in poverty because they had first given themselves to the Lord. Generosity is the fruit of grace, not the price of grace.
- **The Gospel pattern (8:9).** Jesus was rich, became poor for our sake, and made us rich through His poverty. Christian generosity is shaped by the generosity of Christ.
- **Willingness, proportion, and follow-through (8:10-15).** Paul asks the Corinthians to finish what they began, but according to what they have. This protects people from comparison and helps every household respond faithfully.
- **Cheerful, not compelled (9:5-7).** Paul is explicit: giving should not come from reluctance or compulsion. This verse should shape the tone of the whole night.
- **God supplies for more generosity (9:8-15).** The harvest Paul describes is righteousness, provision for continued generosity, and thanksgiving to God. This is not a promise of personal wealth. Giving ends in worship.

LEADING THE DISCUSSION

- **Prepare before the meeting:** Pray through your own generosity commitment first. You do not need to share an amount, and no one else should be asked to share an amount. Review the commitment card so you can explain the process simply.
- **Worship:** Spend real time in 2 Corinthians 8:9. If the group sees generosity as a response to Jesus' generosity, the rest of the conversation will be healthier.
- **Community:** The question about money and security will be vulnerable. Go first if that helps but keep your answer brief. Name the heart issue without creating pressure.

- **Mission:** Broaden generosity beyond money without avoiding money. Ask how the group could practice generosity together with time, hospitality, resources, and finances.
- **Prayer:** Thank God for His generosity in Christ before asking anyone to respond. Let 2 Corinthians 9:15 set the tone.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Woodside:

- **The Woodsider, Vol. 7:** The GIVE article on living generously and what 'above and beyond' can mean in different financial situations.
- **The campaign trifold and commitment card:** Essential logistics for this week. Commitment Sundays are November 1 and 8.
- **Sermon:** 'Looking for Security' (Mark 10:17-27), preached October 11. This teaching connects money to the longing for security.
- **Companion You're Looking for Jesus Podcast (YouTube):** Helpful video podcast exploring deeper questions of the text and culture as it relates to money and generosity.

For deeper study:

- **Randy Alcorn, The Treasure Principle:** A short, accessible introduction to joyful giving.
- **Bible Project, '2 Corinthians' overview video:** Helpful context for chapters 8-9 in Paul's larger argument.

Week 7 - Everyday Mission, Because Everyone Is Looking

TEXT: Matthew 5:13-16; Revelation 3:14-22 WEEK OF: October 25-31

LESSON OVERVIEW & GOAL

The goal this week: help group members build ongoing rhythms of prayer, Gospel conversations, and generosity so helping people see Jesus becomes part of everyday life, not just a seven-week emphasis.

This final conversation addresses a main long-term risk of the campaign, which is that the group has a strong fall, but nothing changes afterward. Matthew 5 gives the promise that Jesus' people are salt and light. Revelation 3 gives the warning that a church can become comfortable, self-sufficient, and spiritually blind. Your group should leave with specific rhythms, real accountability, and a clear next step heading into Commitment Sunday.

Timing note: your group studies Revelation 3:14-22 the week before it is preached on November 1. That is intentional. Encourage everyone to attend Commitment Sunday having already sat with Jesus' warning and invitation.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

- **You are salt and light (Matt 5:13-16).** Jesus declares identity before He gives instruction. His people are visible so others may give glory to the Father.
- **Laodicea's Background:** Laodicea was a wealthy and prosperous city in the heart of the Roman Empire. It was a center for banking, textiles, and fashion due to the unique black wool it produced, and for medicine due to the unique eye-salve they made. But the city had a water problem. Its water arrived by aqueduct from springs several miles away, and by the time it got there it was lukewarm and heavy with minerals. Not hot enough to heal. Not cold enough to refresh. Just warm enough to make you want to spit it out.
- **Laodicea's problem (Rev 3:15-17).** The church was not facing obvious crisis. Its danger was comfortable self-sufficiency. Wealth had made them blind to their actual condition.
- **Jesus connects with Laodicea's real need (Rev 3:17 – 18).** Every remedy Laodicea was selling to the world, Jesus offers to sell back to Laodicea. Not because their industries were evil, but because they had asked their industries to do a job only He can do. Underneath all of it is a simple exchange. We were made by God and for God, and the deepest things we want, to be loved, to be safe, to matter, to belong, were meant to find their home in Him.

LEADING THE DISCUSSION

- **Worship:** Let the group feel the contrast between Matthew 5 and Revelation 3. Jesus sends His people as light, but His people can also drift into comfort and blindness.
- **Community:** Ask the group honestly where comfort or self-sufficiency may be shaping them. Then help them name concrete rhythms for prayer, mission, and generosity.

- **Mission:** Make the practical step tangible, concrete, and achievable. A vague resolution will not help the group move towards missional rhythms.
- **Prayer:** Close with the campaign prayer, 'Lord, help us to see You,' and ask Him to keep the group from lukewarmness.
- **Celebrate:** Take time to name what God has done over the seven weeks: stories shared, people prayed for, invitations made, generosity practiced, and steps taken.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Woodside:

- **The Woodsider, Vol. 7**
- **Key dates to announce:** Commitment Sundays November 1 & 8; See Jesus Celebration Sunday November 22.

For deeper study:

- **Michael Frost, Surprise the World!:** Five simple weekly habits for everyday mission: Bless, Eat, Listen, Learn, Sent.
- **John Stott, The Message of the Sermon on the Mount:** Helpful on salt and light.
- **Bible Project, 'Revelation Ch. 1-11' overview video:** Situates Laodicea among the seven letters.

After the Series

When the seven weeks end, the mission continues. The goal was never to finish a campaign resource. The goal was to begin living with greater clarity and intentionality around helping people see Jesus.

- **Keep the prayer list alive.** Continue praying through the names your group gathered in weeks 3-5 after regular content resumes.
- **Revisit the rhythms.** Put a date on the calendar four to six weeks later and ask, 'Are we doing what we said we would do?' Adjust the plan instead of abandoning it.
- **Tell the stories.** When someone has a spiritual conversation, invites a neighbor, sees an answered prayer, or takes a new step, celebrate it with the group.
- **Stay connected.** Your Life Group Director is with you through this campaign. Bring them your questions, wins, challenges, and places where your group needs help.

Thank you for shepherding your group through this season. Our conviction is that people are looking for Jesus, and He is closer than they think. May your Life Group become one of the places where people see Him more clearly.



We help people see Jesus.