



SMALL GROUP LEADERS: - Remember the C's of Small group health:

CONTENT - *biblical, intentional, and conversational*

CONSISTENCY - *regular meetings and interactions with one another*

CARE - *sharing life's ups and downs with grace, love and encouragement*

CELEBRATION - *celebrating God's grace to us and having fun together*

COMMISSION - *participating in what God is doing now during our lifetime on earth*

CHARACTER - *as a leader - growing in my example for my group*

ICE BREAKER: (Choose one)

- Share a time when you have been "scared for your life."
- As a child or teenager, what was your "go to" response when you got in trouble?

Into the Word

Leaders: This week we will not do a parallel passage but use the same passage from the sermon. This is to better understand and reinforce the important theological concept of union life.

Read Romans 6:1-4

- 1) How does this passage challenge you personally?
- 2) What excuses for sin do these verses eliminate?
- 3) Based on this passage, what is the primary effect or outcome of being a Christ-follower (see v. 4b)?

Read Romans 6:5-11

- 4) Why does Paul keep the focus on Jesus, instead of on the people and their sin battles?
- 5) How would you explain the concept of being united with Christ?
- 6) How does baptism illustrate the fullness of Christ's provision and our new position in life?

Apply the Word:

- 8) When you sin or fail, are you tempted to try harder and do better OR to distance yourself from God? Based on the concept of "union life", why are both of these responses problematic?

Leader Tip:

The fact of union life forces us to turn toward Christ when we fail in complete dependence upon Him, His grace and His power.

9) Explain how union life gives us the mindset and provision to navigate the following situations with peace, hope, and strength:

- a) In adversity
- b) Searching for purpose
- c) In a time of transition
- d) After you sin or fail
- e) When doubting myself (my identity)

10) Of the things mentioned above, which one do you need the group's prayers and support?

Prayer Time: Complete the following sentence prayer:

- *God, thank you for joining me with Christ. Help me to face _____ knowing You are with me and that You are in me.*