

# LEVERAGE YOUR LIFE

## LEADER GUIDE

**BIG IDEA:** We are all called to leverage our lives for the sake of God's Kingdom.

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 8 and Sunday, April 12, 2026

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 1:12-14; 2:42-47

### CONNECT

**When have you felt caught up in something bigger than yourself – a team, a movement, a group pushing for a goal, and so on?** *What was it and what was that experience like?*

The truth is we are all caught up in something bigger than ourselves and that is being a part of God's family and joining Him in His mission of making disciples.

**ASK:** Think about your life over the past five years. What words would you use to describe your journey or experience as a Christ-follower?

### WATCH/DISCUSS THE VIDEO

#### VIDEO OPTIONS:

- Watch the video together as a group using the YouTube app on the Roku streaming device in your LifeGroup room. The videos will be available on the Chets Creek Church YouTube channel. This week's video is 17 minutes long.
- Or watch the video on your own, take notes and share the highlights with your group. A link to the video can be found here: [www.chetscreek.com/adults/lifegroups](http://www.chetscreek.com/adults/lifegroups)

#### DISCUSS:

What stood out to you from this video?

Recall this quote from William James, *"The great use of a life is to spend it for something that outlasts it."* How does it encourage you to know that God has used and continues to use ordinary people to turn the world upside down?

Consider this statement: *"The mission of God is who Jesus is as He lives His life through you, not something you do for Him."* How does the statement shift your perspective as a Christ-follower living on mission in the world?

Think about the places where you live, work, and play. (Draw a rough map of Jacksonville on the board and put a mark where the Chets Campuses are located. Take a minute to ask your group what area of Jacksonville they live in, where they work, and "play" – think kids' sports teams, gym memberships, recreational activities, etc. Mark those areas as well.)

How do you leverage these opportunities for the mission of God? If you're not currently engaging in these opportunities, what are some first steps you can take toward leveraging your life for the sake of God's mission?

## SCRIPTURE READING

### ACTS 1:12-14; 2:42-47(CSB)

<sup>12</sup>Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem – a Sabbath's day's journey away. <sup>13</sup>When they arrived, they [the disciples] went to the room upstairs where they were staying...<sup>14</sup>They all were continually united in prayer, along with the women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. <sup>45</sup>They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favor of all people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

## SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

### DESPERATION PRODUCES PRAYER

#### READ ACTS 1:12-14

These verses occur right after Jesus's ascension into heaven. What did Mary and the disciples do? What do you think you would have done?

How have your prayers changed or matured throughout your spiritual life?

In a culture of plenty, how can you develop a level of desperation in your prayer life?

### THE LAUNCH OF THE CHURCH

#### READ ACTS 2:42-47

What values or priorities were important to these early followers of Jesus? How would you characterize this early church? (**generous and growing!**)

Are these same values important in the church today? Why or why not do you think?

Recall the five kingdom priorities. How were these values evident in the early church? How are they evident in the Church today?

- Seek first the kingdom
- Deepen devotion
- Stick together
- Think multiplication
- Engage your city

## PRAYER RESPONSE

**LEADERS:** Please save time at the end of each lesson to close with each week's prayer response. Pray the verse over your group that is provided and follow the suggested response below.

When we seek God in prayer, He moves in power. Scripture to pray: *"As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."* (John 20:21) Stand up (if able) and put your right hand on the shoulder of the person next to you. Your LifeGroup Leader will guide you to silently pray for that person – that they would be an influence where they live, work and play. After a few moments of silence, your leader will close your group in prayer. *This week thank God for being with you wherever you go and ask Him to guide you as you leverage your life for His glory.*

**NEXT WEEK:** Seek First His Kingdom (Matthew 6:9-10; 31-34)

## ADDITIONAL NOTES

### DESPERATION PRODUCES PRAYER

As we explore verses in Acts 1 and 2 this is a good time to remember that the earliest Jesus followers were not in a safe place during the events described in this passage. Relationally, they had cut themselves off from the broader community because of their person to Jesus. Physically, they were crammed together in a relatively small space and uncertain about the future. Even legally, they were in great danger. The same people who had just crucified Jesus were aware of them - and watching. And if all that wasn't enough, their Master had just given them a commission to take His message to the world then disappeared in the clouds as He floated out of sight.

In other words, the earliest followers of Jesus were in a desperate state. They knew, *if God is not God, then we are sunk!* And they responded in a way that should be natural for all Jesus followers when we encounter desperation. Let's read Acts 1:14,

***"All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers."***

And this became their pattern. Twenty-six times in twenty-eight chapters of Acts we find the church desperately seeking God in prayer. The book of Acts records the history of answered prayer. As Jesus followers, we know we're supposed to pray. We hear it all the time in church, through devotionals, listening to podcasts, and so on. And we know from scripture that those earliest disciples were people of prayer. They understood the value and importance of prayer. But sometimes the pressure of having our backs against the wall can squeeze us into a place where prayer stops being something we do and starts to be a part of who we are - like breathing.

That was the reality for Jesus's disciples in that upper room. They devoted themselves to prayer because they had no other hope for provision or solution, and they had the faith to keep praying until God showed up and did what He had promised to do.

What we need to understand today is that God, in His sovereignty, has chosen to limit His activity to the prayers of His people. Meaning that though God is sovereign and can do anything and often desires to intervene on our behalf, He waits until we reach up through faith and seek His provision.

E. M. Bounds said, *“The story of every great Christian achievement is the history of answered prayer.”*

The early church believed that and sought God desperately through prayer. And the world has never been the same.

## **THE LAUNCH OF THE CHURCH**

Have you ever thought about the launch of the church on a practical level? It was extraordinary! Accompanied by wind and fire, the Holy Spirit filled the apostles, and the same apostles left the upper room and filled the streets. They miraculously spoke in tongues so that the thousands of people who had traveled to Jerusalem from other nations around the world for Pentecost understood what they were saying. Then Peter preached a message of conviction and passion empowered by the Holy Spirit. According to Acts 2: 41,

**“Those who received this word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.”**

One sermon. Three thousand people transformed for eternity. The next public gathering saw even more souls ushered into the Kingdom. Acts 4:4 tells us, “Many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. In fact, scholars tell us that within six months of Pentecost, there were one hundred thousand Christians living, working, and ministering in Jerusalem.

The church was “launched” in almost every sense of that word. The Kingdom expanded in a way that was explosive, irresistible, and unstoppable. And it’s still expanding. Those of us living in the West often feel like the church is dying, but that’s not the case - not even close. The church is exploding in South America, Africa, India, and China. For two thousand years, God has carried out His mission of expanding His Kingdom in every city and nation across the globe, and we are living in the greatest days in the history of Christianity to be alive. There are more people becoming followers of Jesus on a daily basis around the world than at any other time in human history.

This mission is the task we are called to as followers of Jesus. Remember, the mission of God is not something you do for Jesus. Mission is who Jesus is as He lives His life through you. We get to join, experience, and advance this incredible movement in the places where we live, work, and play as we leverage our lives for the sake of God's mission.