

LEVERAGE YOUR LIFE

LEADER GUIDE

ENGAGE YOUR CITY

BIG IDEA: The gospel changes families, lives, and communities.

DATE: Wednesday, May 13 and Sunday, May 17, 2026

SCRIPTURE: Luke 4:43; Jonah 4:10-11; Luke 19:41

CONNECT

Where is your favorite place to spend an afternoon in our city? Why? What are three words that describe Jacksonville/PV?

WATCH 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 14 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

DISCUSS:

What stood out to you from today's video teaching?

SCRIPTURE

Luke 4:43 (CSB)

But he [Jesus] said to them, "It is necessary for me to proclaim the good news about the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because I was sent for this purpose."

Jonah 4:10-11 (CSB)

¹⁰ And the LORD said, "You cared about the plant, which you did not labor over and did not grow. It appeared in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ So may I not care about the great city of Nineveh, which has more than a hundred twenty thousand people who cannot distinguish between their right and their left, as well as many animals?"

Luke 19:41 (CSB)

As he [Jesus] approached and saw the city [Jerusalem], he wept for it...

DISCUSSION

READ: LUKE 4:43

Have you ever thought of yourself as a missionary to Jacksonville/PV? Jesus's mission was clear – to share the good news and His great commission to us is clear – go and make disciples of all nations. How does seeing yourself as a missionary change the way you approach each day, each encounter you have?

When we begin to think "city" and not just "church" we know the Kingdom of God is growing in a city. Missionaries build bridges and use strategies to reach the city. What are some ways Chets does this? (invite friends to VBS, special events like Easter Eggstravaganza, camp, men's and women's gatherings, church services, etc. Chets is a "church for the unchurched, here and around the world" – we do not have events just to have events – but to draw people to Christ and join a family of believers; being strategic about offering things that are easy to invite friends to.)

SHARE: Cam Boothe, our global Student Pastor, has a vision to see all students in the Jacksonville area experience Jesus. Isn't that bold? This casts the vision to his students to reach their friends – all their friends – with the gospel. This should be our goal as well!

How often do you look for things in Jesus that are not in you? How can reading the Gospels help you grow in Christlikeness as we engage our city?

READ JONAH 4:10-11

Why did Jonah care more about the plant than the city? What was God teaching Jonah?

God was calling Jonah to be a missionary to a lost city.

Where do you see evidence of lostness in our city – specific ways in which our city reveals its need for the gospel? How can we strategize to impact the lostness of our city?

SHARE: Have you ever been to the Murray Hill Theatre in Jacksonville? Tony Nasrallah struggled with alcoholism in the 80's and would go to a Christian owned coffee shop every Friday night for some sober community. After the coffee shop closed and tragedy struck his family, he felt God call him to open another venue space that was clean and alcohol free. In 1995 he took over the Murray Hill Theatre (formerly a goth venue space and movie theater in the 40's.) It is now a non-profit Christian nightclub, music venue and café. His mission is to provide a safe, faith-based space for concerts and community events. He has leveraged his life by using his job, skills and passion for the sake of the gospel and to engage our city!

How can we serve our city? How can we build relational bridges to share the gospel? How can we shift from a "you come to us" to a "we go to the city" strategy? (We partner with the local schools, serve Hadassah's Hope, One More Child, offer Embrace Grace and Embrace Life classes and baby showers, and countless other local ministries. Invite a time of brainstorming of what your group could do!)

Consider the neighborhoods, businesses, and communities in our city. In what practical ways can we think micro about the places where live, work and play to reach the macro goal of engaging

our city? (Volunteer at a hospital or school, coach a team, care for your neighbor in practical ways when facing loss, illness or transitions in life like new babies, empty nest, or retirement. Join your neighborhood clubs with the purpose of sharing and showing Jesus.)

IN REVIEW: Over the course of this study, we have examined how to leverage our lives for the sake of God's mission and five kingdom priorities that help us to do so.

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

If we align our lives with these values, we will allow Christ in us to begin to live through us in a way that will leverage our lives for the sake of His glory. *What have you learned about these five kingdom priorities over the course of this study? Be ready to share what challenged you.*

READ: LUKE 19:41 as you go into the Prayer Response.

PRAYER RESPONSE

When we seek God in prayer, He moves in power. Have you ever wept for your city? We can be quick to criticize our city but not weep over its lostness. Jesus grieves over lostness. The beautiful truth is that the gospel changes cities and God uses His followers to impact the lostness in our cities. Close this series by praying over your city – neighborhoods, schools, sports leagues and places of work and play. **Leaders: lead this time of prayer over Jacksonville/PV. Ask group members to call out their neighborhoods, schools, sports leagues, and places of business represented. Write these on the board as people call them out and pray for them by name or hold a time of corporate prayer where anyone can pray out loud and you close the prayer.** Pray for God to give us passion to impact the lostness in our city. Be open to how God has uniquely positioned you to leverage your life for the sake of the gospel!

Engaging our city isn't just about getting more people to go to church. It means that the city becomes a better place to live because Jesus wants to transform and redeem that community. The city begins to change because of the movement of God in that city.

SHARE WITH YOUR GROUP:

Sunday, May 24 – Worship Together Sunday (ministry to preschool available) No LifeGroups (Memorial Day weekend)

ADDITIONAL NOTES

ENGAGING THE WHOLE CITY

Most of us can get on board with the idea of engaging our city with the gospel—of joining in God's activity of expanding His kingdom by taking that very gospel out into the streets. It's a worthy goal. But here's a truth we need to consider - engaging our city means engaging *all* of our city. In other words, we fulfill our commission to make disciples of all nations by presenting that gospel to

every people group within our city. Not just the people who look like us. Not just the people who travel in our social circles.

Not just the people who think like we do or vote like we do or even speak the same language. Engaging your city means engaging every aspect of the culture and communities in which you live. Even those that seem uncomfortable. It's easy for us to keep walking the same circles and pushing the same rocks up and down the same hills. But if we want to engage our cities with the gospel, we need to broaden out, as Paul did. We need to speak with anyone who will listen. Engage with anyone who needs help or who might be open to a conversation. Yes, it makes sense for us to start where we feel most comfortable. But we can't stay there. Not if we want to obey our Savior's command and fulfill His commission.

DON'T DO IT ALONE

We've seen that engaging our cities is a major part of fulfilling our commission to "make disciples of all nations." Although our mission is to take the gospels to all nations, we do not always have to travel the world to seek first God's kingdom. We've also seen that engaging our city means focusing on *all* of our city, going where people are actively looking for answers, and expecting opposition. In addition to these realities, there's one more truth we need to remember as we engage our cities: we can't do it alone. We were never meant to do it alone.

Look at Acts 18:1-4 with Paul in Corinth:

After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

Paul wasn't a lone wolf or a rogue street-preacher operating in isolation. He gathered people he trusted—people willing to partner in his important work. He worked with people he considered equals and mentored others who needed more knowledge and more experience. He engaged the city of Corinth as part of a community. We need to do the same thing if we want to be effective in engaging our city. Joining in God's kingdom activity is not something we can handle on our own. Some of you may be thinking, *But I am alone! What can I do?*

Let's read more in Acts 18:9-10 about Paul's time in Corinth.

And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people."

As a follower of Jesus, you have His promised Helper dwelling within you (John 14:16). And if you do feel alone, remember that you are called to go and make disciples. We are not alone when we are actively investing ourselves in the lives of others. Remember Jesus? We talk a lot about how He trained up His first followers and poured Himself into them before sending them out to change the world—and rightfully so. Jesus understood the value of collaboration. In the same way, those first followers didn't huddle together in a "holy club" for the next several decades. They continued to model kingdom collaboration, finding new partners who could offer new skills, new relationships, and new resources to continue the work of joining in God's activity to expand

His kingdom. Likewise, let us never ignore the power of connection and community as we engage the world for Christ. We can't do it alone.

WRAPPING IT UP

Over the course of this study, we have examined how to leverage our lives for the sake of God's mission and five kingdom priorities that help us to do so.

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

If we align our lives with these values, we will allow Christ in us to begin to live through us in a way that will leverage our lives for the sake of His glory. *What have you learned about these five kingdom priorities over the course of this study? Be prepared to share with your group something that challenged you.*