



LIFE GROUPS

LEADER GUIDE

Welcome to Session 2 of the Marks of Ownership Series!

Just like last week, we encourage you to review your study materials ahead of time. Choose the questions from the guide that will best support your group and check out the information below for some tips and insights.

JOURNAL & GATHER SEGMENT

We hope your group got off to a great start with this series! The beginning of your study this week should begin like Session 1, with a discussion of the two journal reflection questions. After this conversation, allow some time for one or two people to share an insight they gained from their SOAP time this week.

VIDEO TEACHING SEGMENT

Mike's testimony is a great example of the difference between having a hand-me-down faith and an owned faith. Here are some elements that you may want to highlight with your group:

- Hand-me-down faith is not strong enough to withstand the difficulties and challenges that come our way.
- Even though Mike was too angry to see his mother's healing as a miracle, he saw God at work within the people at Central who loved him (and his wife) well.
- You never know how God will use your presence to draw other people to him!

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Let's face it. Life would be much easier if there was a formula or a set list of tasks that we could do to make sure that we were following Jesus the way that we should be. The Bible is so big. There are so many commands. Wouldn't it be great if Jesus just told us straight up what he wanted us to do? In Matthew 22:34-40 the expert in the law approached Jesus with this very challenge—what is the greatest commandment? Fortunately, Jesus actually answers the question. Unfortunately, his answer isn't all black and white. Instead of giving us a list of dos and don'ts, Jesus calls his followers to follow what some scholars have called "the law of love."

Check out **Romans 13:8-10** for a helpful explanation of this law:

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Have a group of new believers? The follow-up question to Matthew 22:34-40 (Why do you think Jesus answered...) may be challenging. Use the supplementary questions below to help your group process through this question if they are struggling:





LIFE GROUPS

LEADER GUIDE

Have you ever known someone who claimed to love God but didn't seem to care about other people? Did you believe their love of God was authentic? How can our understanding of "love" get off track if we don't spend time with God regularly?

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

This is the section that will really help your group to find the connection between the two marks we are studying this week: ***Passionately Pursuing Jesus*** and ***Found People Find People***. You may want to take more time than usual to help your group process through these questions.

The first question in this section (*Would you describe...*) will be a win for almost any group. Those who answer "no" may need some additional time and prayer support. Those who answer "yes" may be great candidates to help the "nos" in your group. Don't miss this opportunity to support and empower your people!

Cal talked about **trusting**, **depending** and **obeying** this week as indicators of those who passionately pursue Jesus. Look for ways to talk through what it looks like to really live this way.

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

We end our study this week with a reminder that **abiding in Jesus is the only way that we can grow in our passion for God and love for our neighbors**. The questions in this last section are meant to lead us back to dependence on Jesus instead of independence and self-sufficiency.

Have a group of mature believers? The second question in this section (*In what areas are you attempting...*) can provide a great opportunity for self-reflection and transformational dialogue.

NEXT STEPS

In addition to the "Circles of Life" activity in the study guide (pg. 118), take a moment to address the following topics/opportunities with your Life Group:

Baptism is an important first step in passionately pursuing Jesus. This session will provide an easy way to open up a conversation about baptism. If you don't already know, find out who in your group has been baptized, who might be interested in baptism and who wants to learn more.

*A great way to learn how to share your faith in a natural way and with confidence is to attend the **Share Your Faith Workshop coming to all campuses on Sunday, March 6**. This workshop will be a great benefit for all Jesus followers—don't miss this! Please sign up at Starting Point at your campus or on the web: centralaz.com/sharingfaith.*

