**Welcome to Session 3 of the Marks of Ownership Series!**

We hope you are in the habit of reviewing your study materials prior to your weekly life group meeting and selecting the best questions for your group from the study guide. Check out the information below for some additional thoughts that will support you as you lead your group through Session 3 of this study.



Phil and Sally’s testimony is one that many of us can relate to! Here are some elements of the video that you may want to talk about with your group:

* It seems like doing life outside of community would be easier than living in the messiness of community, but the reality is the opposite.
* Living in community gives us new perspectives and enables us to deepen our faith and nurture our relationships with God and others.
* Jeremy said, “Easy is not necessarily better.” Leading a LG is challenging, but worth it.
* Part of being in Community includes highs and lows. Jeremy listed a number of issues that his group has encountered including, rape, sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, legalism, alcoholism, premarital sex, infertility, etc.
  + As a leader, are you creating an atmosphere where challenging topics can be discussed openly and honestly?



God designed our faith to be lived out in community. When we isolate ourselves from community, we are missing out on opportunities to learn, grow, and be encouraged by God through other believers.

Ephesians 4:14-16 and 2Timothy 3 show us the importance of being connected to community. When we are a part of the body of Christ, we are able to mature in our faith because we are rooted in meaningful relationships with people who can speak the truth to us in love. When we are not surrounded by people who truly know us, teach us and correct us, we are more vulnerable to the distractions and deceptions of the enemy.



**It is often easy to talk about hypothetical situations during our Life Group conversations and hard to get down to the real practical issues. If this is a common challenge for your group, make sure to ask the first question in this section *(Describe a time when you...).* Then, help**

**your group make the connection between this story and their lives by asking the following question *(How close do you have to be…).* These two questions can help start a meaningful dialogue around the difficulty of participating in transformational communities that offer accountability through teaching, rebuking and correction.**



Faithfully participating in Christian community can be hard in our culture. There are so many things vying for our time and attention. This is a reality that we must recognize. On the other hand, the Bible makes it clear that Jesus-followers live in community!

Obviously the people in your group have made it a priority to gather—but that doesn’t mean that this content is “preaching to the choir.” There are many ways that we can grow in our commitment to community and one another. Hebrews 10:23-25 tells us that we should be spurring one another on in love and good deeds. **That means that we all have a part to play in community!**

*This might be a good time to reflect on your group participation. Do the members of your group contribute to life groups in meaningful ways (hosting, facilitating, snacks, etc.)? Are you training up an apprentice who will start a new life group in the future? Is gathering for weekly worship a priority for your group members?*

**The last two questions in this section are great for all of us to consider. We all need trustworthy people speaking into our lives and sharpening us for the work of the kingdom. We should also be looking for ways to invest in others and help them to own their faith.**



* If you have not already identified someone as your apprentice ask God to reveal to you who you should ask to step into this role.
* Plan a time for your group to serve together.
  + Check your campus for upcoming *Made for More* events
  + Go to Feed My Starving Children as a group
    - For more information check out their website at <https://www.fmsc.org>
* Plan a Life Group Barbecue and ask your members to invite a neighbor.
  + An event like this would incorporate two of the Marks of Ownership:  
    **Life is Better Together** and **Found People Find People**!

*We will be providing some information on campus-specific serving opportunities in next week’s leader guide. Make sure to check these out so that you can share these opportunities with your group.*