



April 2 & 3, 2016
Ken Long, Senior Pastor

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,
2 Timothy 4:3

I. The **Reality** of God as Judge

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.
Romans 1:18-19

but it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another.
Psalm 75:7

II. The **Reaction** of God as Judge

What warrants the **wrath of God**?

A. **Inexcusable ignorance**

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. Romans 1:20

B. **Ingratitude**

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Romans 1:21

C. **Insolence**

Claiming to be wise, they became fools, Romans 1:22

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good. Psalm 14:1

D. **Idolatry**

and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Romans 1:23

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E. **Immorality**

Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, Romans 1:24

F. **Incorrigible**

They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Romans 1:29-31

G. **Insubordination**

But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath . . . Romans 2:5a

III. The **Righteousness** of God as Judge

. . . when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. Romans 2:5b

on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. Romans 2:16

A. God's judgments are **true**.

We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. Romans 2:2

B. God's judgments are **impartial**.

For God shows no partiality. Romans 2:11

C. God's judgments are **thorough**.

on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. Romans 2:16

IV. My **Response** to God as Judge

A. Recognize **the grace of God**.

Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? Romans 2:4

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, Titus 2:11

B. Renounce **the flesh**.

*But a Jew is one inwardly, and **circumcision is a matter of the heart**, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.* Romans 2:29

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Leader Guide

PLUMB

THE TRUTH ABOUT...



Lessons 1-4

April 2-3
Through
April 23-24



My Role as The Leader 2

Things to Remind Your Home Group

Our Purpose as a Home Group 3

Our Ground Rules for Home Group Discussions 4

Things to Share With Your Home Group

My Time Outside of Group 5

My Daily Time With God 6

WEEK #1: JUDGEMENT 7

Key Scripture: Romans 2:2

Story: Acts 5:1-11

Weekend of: April 2-3, 2016

WEEK #2: SIN 8

Key Scripture: Romans 3:23

Story: 2 Samuel 12:1-15

Weekend of: April 9-10, 2016

WEEK #3: JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH 9

Key Scripture: Romans 5:1

Story: Acts 16:25-34

Weekend of: April 16-17, 2016

WEEK #4: SALVATION 10

Key Scripture: Romans 6:23

Story: John 3:1-21

MY ROLE AS THE LEADER

• For clarification or assistance in understanding these responsibilities, connect with your Home Group Coach or Community Pastor.

The Roles of the Home Group Leader: INSIDE THE GROUP	The Roles of the Home Group Leader: OUTSIDE THE GROUP
<p style="text-align: center;">Abide in Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spend time in God’s Word, pray and fellowship during home group. • Encourage others to spend time in God’s Word, prayer and fellowship. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Abide in Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press into your relationship with God throughout the week. • Encourage others to press into God’s Word, prayer and fellowship.
<p style="text-align: center;">Intentional Relational Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a safe environment for the group to thrive and grow. • Ask good questions for the purpose of understanding where each group member is. • Be transparent and vulnerable. • Identify things to celebrate together as a group. (baptisms, serving, growth, etc...) 	<p style="text-align: center;">Intentional Relational Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intentionally create opportunities to spend time with group members at coffee, home, etc... • Aid in identifying places for people to play. • Encourage others to pray for those outside of group.
<p style="text-align: center;">Pressing Into the One</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify your one. • Disciple your one. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Pressing Into the One</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a friend, co-worker, family member or neighbor to press into.
<p style="text-align: center;">Chase the Strays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize who is missing from group. • Encourage others to recognize who is missing from group. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Chase the Strays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check in with those who missed group. • Look for opportunities to connect throughout the week with those who missed group and encourage group members to do the same.
<p style="text-align: center;">Connect the Unconnected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for the Lord to put people in your path to invite to group. • Encourage group members to invite people. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Connect the Unconnected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite new people to group through personal invitation and phone calls. • Model for group members inviting unconnected people.
<p style="text-align: center;">Reach the Lost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for the Lord to put non-believers in your path throughout the week to minister to. • Equip group members in sharing the gospel. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Reach the Lost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be prepared to share the gospel to anyone. • Get to know your neighbors and co-workers. • Invite the lost to group.
<p style="text-align: center;">Spiritual and Leadership Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the spiritual maturity of group members. (<i>Dead, Infant, Child, Young Adult, Parent</i>) • Identify, Equip, and Train an apprentice. • Provide opportunities for your apprentice to lead. • Release your apprentice when the group is ready to branch. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Spiritual and Leadership Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with your coach to discuss group and training. • Meet with your apprentice regularly to debrief and equip. • Identify and schedule serving opportunities for the group to do together.

THE PURPOSE OF HOME GROUPS:

Although weekend worship is important, we believe that Jesus' command to make disciples is best lived out in small group relational environments. Jesus' methods are just as divine as His message. Therefore, we have chosen to follow Jesus' example by creating community home groups which are the primary vehicle by which we carry out the mission of the church. Ranging in size from 4 to 14 people, home groups are community-based relational environments of men and women that meet for the purpose of intentionally growing as disciples of Jesus.

VISION: To reach the world for Jesus Christ by creating relational environments for the purpose of making disciples who can make disciples.

MISSION: Loving God, Loving People, Disciples Making Disciples

METHOD & STRATEGY: To follow Jesus' divine model in making biblical disciples through intentional relational environments using His reproducible spiritual growth process.

"Abide in me, and I in You. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me." John 15:4

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37-39

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." Acts 2:42-47

SAFE GROUP: We will all do our part to create an environment where everyone can be real, open and honest with their struggles and victories.

CONFIDENTIALITY: What is said in group stays in the group.

LISTEN: Let's value one another during the discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond or what you are going to say next.

PAUSE: Allow a pause in conversation after someone shares. A pause gives the person sharing the chance to finish, and the group the opportunity to consider what was just shared before responding.

SILENCE: It is important to allow silence in the group. Silence provides an opportunity for someone to share and for members in the group to process the topic or question being considered.

NO "CROSS TALK": Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.

NO FIXING: We are not here to fix each other. Jesus does that part. Give encouragement; speak truth and point to Jesus. Don't try to solve problems or fix each other.

NO RESCUING: When people are sharing something deeply personal, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or the situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause them to stop sharing. Resist the temptation to rescue people.

SHARING: Be sensitive about the amount of time you share.

BE SELF-AWARE: Be self-aware of how you are personally affecting the environment through your words, actions and non-verbal communication.

USE "I" STATEMENTS: It's easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use "I" statements rather than "them", "the church", "us", "we", etc.

CONFLICT: We will commit to resolve conflict biblically. When conflict or sin issues between group members arise, we want to make sure that we are honoring God and each other in the way we deal with issues.

Intentional Leader Action:

- Who do I need to encourage this week?
- Who am I intentionally praying for this week? Who needs me to pray with them?
- Who do I need to have a follow-up conversation with this week from group?
- Who was absent from group or from service? What's the next step to help them stay connected?
- Who am I inviting to group? How am I regularly encouraging group members to invite unconnected people?

After Group:

- Is the group growing a heart for lost people?
- Who was absent from group or service?
- How are our relationships deepening?
- What needs can I or others meet?
- What do I need to debrief with my apprentice this week?

Connecting In Daily Life

- Who has God called you to press into?
- How will you connect with them?
- How will you press into their life?
- Where are they in their walk with Christ?
- How is their relationship with God?
- How is their relationship with family?

The 4 Relational Spheres of Life

How are you doing in your relationship with Christ?	How are you doing in your relationships at home?	How are you doing in your relationships in the body of Christ?	How are you doing in your relationships outside the body of Christ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * What has God been telling you this week? * Where is the enemy attacking you this week? * How has your time in the Word and in prayer been this week? Devotional? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * With your spouse? * With your children? * With your extended family members? * What are you intentionally doing to help them and you mature as disciples of Jesus? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * People in your home group? * Others in the church? * Conflict to overcome? * Are you connecting the unconnected? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Your neighbors? * Your co-workers? * Have you invited people to your home group? * Have you shared the gospel with anyone?

But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer. Luke 5:16

Stop Everything

- Carve out a time to spend with God every day.
- Turn off the TV, leave the phone in another room.
- Prayerfully ask God to remove all distractions and fill that time with just Him.
- Focus on just one thing: talking with God.

Find a Time

- Have a regular time that is dedicated to being with God. Make Him a priority rather than an option.
- God calls us to meet with Him because He loves us. We need to give Him daily praise and prayer.
- *“Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you” (James 4:8).*

Seek a Relationship

- Seek a relationship with God in your quiet time.
- Pray that your time is about building that relationship with Him and knowing Him better.
- Be open in your prayers and praises and He will listen, and in turn, you will grow closer to Him.

Start a Conversation

- Don't hold back. It doesn't have to be perfect prayers and Christian phrases.
- Ask Him questions. Ask Him for help. Cry out to Him. Praise Him.
- God is the greatest listener and He wants an honest conversation with you.

His Presence

- God wants to meet with you. Openly come to Him and regularly talk to Him.
- Pray that your quiet times are filled with His words and your heart is filled with His truth.
- *“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly” (Colossians 3:16).*

He is Able

- *“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or imagine, according to the power at work within us” (Ephesians 3:20).*
- *For apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).*

Seek Him with all of Your Heart

- *“You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13).*

Time spent with God is time well spent.

Ananias & Sapphira

GROUP GUIDELINES

- Help set the tone for group by going through the group guidelines on page iii.
- Help everyone have clear expectations of each other and the group time.

VISION CAST the purpose of home group.

- To help everyone grow in their relationship with God and each other.
- To encourage each other to grow and mature in following Jesus as we are being disciples of Jesus together.
- The group also works together to reach out to others, helping them have a relationship with Jesus.

Go as deep as is needed, being mindful of different views and always aiming for unity. Listen carefully to how the members in your group respond to these questions. They will always give you clues to where they are spiritually and what experience they have pressing into the one.

⇒ **OPEN IN PRAYER**

⇒ **HOME GROUP GROUND RULES:** *see leader tips on the side*

⇒ **VISION CAST:** *the purpose of home group, see leader tips on the side*

⇒ **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Get in the Game Class, April 17, 5pm-8pm, dinner and childcare provided, please register

- 101—Joining the Team
- 201—Discipleship
- 302—Discover Your Ministry

⇒ **WARM-UP QUESTIONS:**

- Share a time when you were given a punishment that you thought was unfair.
- What was the best April Fool's joke you played on someone or had happen to you?

⇒ **THE BIG IDEA:** God is just in His judgement.

⇒ **KEY SCRIPTURE:** *"We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things."* Romans 2:2

⇒ **SETTING UP THE STORY:** Our story from the book of Acts takes place soon after Pentecost and the birth of the church. Thousands of new believers in Christ had repented of sin, been baptized and received the indwelling Holy Spirit. Like many new Christians, they may have imagined that once they were filled with the Holy Spirit their troubles would be over and that sin would no longer be a concern. At a time when others, like Barnabas, were seeking to serve their fellow believers, one couple conspired together to deceive the apostles and to serve themselves. **Leader note:** The severity of God's judgment on Ananias and Sapphira may seem extreme in light of God's grace. However, we are told by Paul that God's discipline of His people may sometimes even be unto death (1 Cor. 11:30.) Rather than weakening the church, God's drastic confrontation of the sin of lying to the Holy Spirit served to increase the church's power and population.

⇒ **OUR STORY PASSAGE:** Acts 5:1-11

- **SHARE THE STORY:** *share from memory*
- **REBUILD THE STORY:** *recreate the passage together*
- **READ THE STORY:** *from the Bible*

⇒ **QUESTIONS:** The goal of questions is to have people engage God's Word as it relates to their own heart and growth. Select the questions that will best feed your group, or see where the Holy Spirit is leading you. You have the freedom to come up with HEART QUESTIONS for your group. Keep in mind that questions are for what God is showing them and you, rather than a desire to teach them something. Let Him do His work through you. *It is better to have a great discussion that challenges people's thinking and beliefs with a few good questions than to answer all the questions at a surface level.*

⇒ **SUGGESTIONS:**

- How is it possible to lie to the Holy Spirit?
- What do you learn about God from Ananias and Sapphira's experience?
- Do you think God was justified in taking their lives? Explain your answer.
- How do you reconcile God's justice with God's mercy and grace?
- What did God reveal or remind you of through this story?

⇒ **REFER TO PAGE 5 & 6**

⇒ **CLOSE IN PRAYER**

David and Bathsheba

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- 302—Discover Your Ministry

⇒ **WARM-UP QUESTIONS:**

- Share a time when your parents or someone caught you in a lie.
- What quality do you appreciate most in a friend?

⇒ **THE BIG IDEA:** ALL have sinned.

⇒ **KEY SCRIPTURE:** *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23*

⇒ **SETTING UP THE STORY:** David, Israel’s second king, is remembered in scripture as being *“a man after God’s own heart.”* We remember him for defeating Goliath, for standing with integrity when pursued by Saul, and for his desire to build a temple to the Lord. The majority of the book of Psalms is attributed to David. For all his devotion to God, David was not immune to temptation and sin, (as described in 2 Samuel 11.) David went to great lengths to conceal his sin from the people, but God knew all about it. At the proper time, God used a good friend and counselor to confront David with his sin.

⇒ **OUR STORY PASSAGE:** 2 Samuel 12:1-15

- **TELL THE STORY:** *share from memory*
- **REBUILD THE STORY:** *recreate the passage together*
- **READ THE STORY:** *from the Bible*

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⇒ **SUGGESTIONS:**

- What is sin?
- What gave Nathan the right to speak to David about his sin?
- How did David respond when confronted? How do you respond?
- How does the daily reality of sin in your life impact your abiding relationship in Christ?
- What did God reveal or remind you of through this story?

⇒ **REFER TO PAGE 5 & 6**

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Paul and the Philippian Jailer

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- ⇒ **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
 - Get in the Game Class, May 22, 5pm-8pm, dinner and childcare provided, please register*
 - 101—Joining the Team
 - 201—Discipleship
 - 303—Share Jesus without Fear
- ⇒ **WARM-UP QUESTIONS:**
 - If you had to endure one natural disaster, what would you pick and why?
 - If you had to be handcuffed to one person for an entire month (not your spouse), who would it be?
- ⇒ **THE BIG IDEA:** We are justified by faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ.
- ⇒ **KEY SCRIPTURE:** *“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1*
- ⇒ **BACKGROUND:** After Paul and Silas shared the gospel with the small group of Jews who lived in Philippi, a slave girl who was possessed, took to following Paul wherever he went. She said, *“These men are the servants of the Most High God who proclaim the way of salvation.”* (Acts 16:17) After several days, Paul became annoyed, and in the name of Jesus Christ he commanded the spirit to come out of her. He had been irritated, not because what the girl said was untrue, but because she was being viewed as the source of truth. When the girl’s masters discovered their hope of profit was gone, they stirred up the crowds. They had Paul and Silas beaten with rods and thrown in jail. It is in this jail that the story for this lesson takes place. It can be assumed that the jailer would have heard about the slave girl, and the reasons Paul and Silas were in their cell.
- ⇒ **OUR STORY PASSAGE:** Acts 16:25-34
 - **TELL THE STORY:** *share from memory*
 - **REBUILD THE STORY:** *recreate the passage together*
 - **READ THE STORY:** *from the Bible*
- ⇒ **QUESTIONS:** The goal of questions is to have people engage God’s Word as it relates to their own heart and growth. Select the questions that will best feed your group, or see where the Holy Spirit is leading you. You have the freedom to come up with HEART QUESTIONS for your group. Keep in mind that questions are for what God is showing them and you, rather than a desire to teach them something. Let Him do His work through you. *It is better to have a great discussion that challenges people’s thinking and beliefs with a few good questions than to answer all the questions at a surface level.*
- ⇒ **SUGGESTIONS:**
 - What did the jailer and prisoners hear from Paul and Silas?
 - Share a time when you thanked God even in the midst of a difficult situation.
 - Do you think Paul and Silas’ attitude/actions had anything to do with the salvation of the jailer and his family? Explain.
 - Why is it important for you to not only share the gospel, but to live it?
 - Share a personal experience from the question above.
- ⇒ **REFER TO PAGE 5 & 6**
- ⇒ **CLOSE IN PRAYER**

Nicodemus and Jesus

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⇒ **VISION CAST:** *the purpose of home group, see leader tips on the side*

⇒ **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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- 101—Joining the Team
- 201—Discipleship
- 303—Share Jesus without Fear

⇒ **WARM-UP QUESTIONS:**

- What is the best present you have ever received, and why?

⇒ **THE BIG IDEA:** Eternal life in Christ

⇒ **KEY SCRIPTURE:** *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Romans 6:23

⇒ **BACKGROUND:** Nicodemus was a member of the Jewish council. This council had sent a committee to investigate John the Baptist. John had denied being the Messiah, but had announced that the Messiah was present. After Jesus was baptized and presented as “the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world” (John 1:29), Nicodemus came personally to Him by night. Conversations at night usually occurred on the flat roof of a house. Perhaps the wind was blowing as Jesus explained the work of the Holy Spirit and the need for spiritual rebirth. John does not record Nicodemus’ response to what Jesus told him that night, but three years later he appeared again at Jesus’ burial, bringing with him 100 pounds of myrrh and aloes.

⇒ **OUR STORY PASSAGE:** John 3:1-21

- **TELL THE STORY:** *share from memory*
- **REBUILD THE STORY:** *recreate the passage together*
- **READ THE STORY:** *from the Bible*

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⇒ **SUGGESTIONS:**

- Share your testimony. **Leader note:** Prior to group, identify at least two people to share their testimony. Their transparency and vulnerability will help guide others in their sharing.
- What did God reveal or remind you of through this story?

⇒ **REFER TO PAGE 5 & 6**

⇒ **CLOSE IN PRAYER**

loving God
loving People
disciples
making Disciples



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