

## LESSON LEADER GUIDE

Hey, Small Group Leaders, welcome back! This lesson kicks off the beginning of our Small Group term for the fall. The goal of this lesson is three fold:

1. To catch back up over the break with an ice breaker that has everyone sharing three things that happened over the summer
2. To unpack a bit of the teaching from Labor Day weekend that wrapped up the book of 1 John and explored the topic of living with eternity in mind.
3. To challenge everyone in your Small Group to pick a Next Step from The Nine to pursue taking this fall term.

### **Ice Breaker: High, Low, Buffalo!**

Have each person share about three things that happened over the summer:

- A high: something great that happened
- A low: something not-so-great and maybe even rough that happened
- A buffalo: something extra or unique or just something cool they want to share about

### **Scripture and Discussion Questions:**

This week's passage discusses a few topics:

- A reminder that God has saved us through Jesus' death and resurrection
- That those who believe will live with Him forever
- To encourage each other to live in the confidence of the life to come

Knowing what is to come after life on earth should impact how we live. The questions give space for your Small Group to discuss how they live or don't live their lives with an eternal perspective.

Small Group exists for helping people take next steps with God in Biblical community. How real your group gets with each other often hinges on how real you're willing to get with them as their leader. Share the ways you know you live for Jesus and the ways you know you still struggle.

***Going Deeper into the Text:*** Chapters 4 & 5 in 1 Thessalonians are often referenced when exploring passages that referred to Jesus' 2nd coming. If this topic is something that intrigues your Small Group, encourage them to study additional passages found in the Bible on this topic this next week rather than taking time to talk about this topic in this week's lesson. Next week, have them share what they learned at the start of the Small Group during the "Weekly Check-In" question.

Other passage include: Matthew 24, Acts 1|1-11, 1 Peter 3, John 14|1-14, 1 Corinthians 15

### **Small Group Interactive: The Nine** *(Print off a copy of The Nine to use during your discussion)*

Have different members of your Small Group share what they know about the different squares of The Nine. On page 2 of the leader guide is a description of each square if your group needs help.

Have each group member share what Next Step they feel God leading them to pursue this fall and write their name down on that box of The Nine. Save this paper to reference throughout the Small Group term and to celebrate when people take Next Steps with God.

End your meeting time by breaking into groups of 2-3 and praying for one another.

### **Extra Info: Upcoming Important Dates to Know**

September 12 | [Together Again Block Party](#): encourage your group to invite others!!

September 19 | [Small Blue Olympics](#): chat about what you'll wear & what service to attend

<b>weekends</b>	<p><i>attend weekend services consistently</i></p> <p>come expectantly; invite someone else to attend church</p> <p><i>And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. —HEBREWS 10 24-25</i></p>
<b>baptism</b>	<p><i>public profession of your belief in and commitment to Jesus Christ</i></p> <p>be baptized and make some waves; help someone else take the next step of baptism</p> <p><i>Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. —ACTS 2 38</i></p>
<b>daily encounter</b>	<p><i>setting aside time each day to spend with God</i></p> <p>begin a Bible reading plan; have someone keep you accountable to having a daily encounter time</p> <p><i>Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. —MARK 1 35B</i></p>
<b>next step groups</b>	<p><i>topical groups that focus on faith, family, and finances</i></p> <p>connect with a larger group; join a rooted group</p> <p><i>So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. —COLOSSIANS 2 6-8</i></p>
<b>small groups</b>	<p><i>the best way to get connected in real community</i></p> <p>Prioritize community in your schedule; help meet the needs of someone in your small group; invite someone else to your small group</p> <p><i>Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. —ECCLESIASTES 2 9-10</i></p>
<b>coaching groups</b>	<p><i>a group of 2 to 5 people meeting to identify and encourage specific next steps</i></p> <p>find a coach (someone a few steps ahead of you); commit to being coached for a specific amount of time; determine a regular meeting schedule</p> <p><i>Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. —1 CORINTHIANS 11 1</i></p>
<b>team</b>	<p><i>using your gifts to serve the Church</i></p> <p>identify how God has created you to serve; find a team to serve on; fill out a connect card and turn it in; reach out to the teams pastor at your campus for help</p> <p><i>...he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them —HEBREWS 6 10B</i></p>
<b>tithe</b>	<p><i>giving generously, because God asked us to</i></p> <p>download the Gyve app; commit to tithe; choose a way to increase your generosity beyond the tithe</p> <p><i>Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. —2 CORINTHIANS 9 6-7</i></p>
<b>go+be</b>	<p><i>being the Church where we live, work, and play</i></p> <p>take LeadOut; share your faith story with someone; meet a need of someone outside the church</p> <p><i>Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? —ROMANS 10 13-15</i></p>

## Small Group Term Kickoff | Week of September 5

Ice Breaker Question:

**Play High, Low, Buffalo:** Have each person share a high and low of the summer as well as something just fun and extra to share that happened this summer (a buffalo)!

**This Week's Big Idea:** Welcome back to Small Group! Let's talk about how we can help each other take next steps in our relationship with God this year.

***What do you remember most, or what stuck with you from the weekend's teaching?***

Scripture and Discussion Questions:

**1 Thessalonians 5|8-11**

1. What is something you spend a lot of time thinking about every day?
2. How much time do you spend thinking about eternity?
3. How has verse 9 impacted your life?
4. What would look different in your life if you were thinking of eternity more often?

Small Group Interactive: The Nine

Small Groups at 2|42 exist to help people take next steps with God in Biblical community. Together we learn, grow, and let Jesus transform every part of our lives.

The Nine was designed to be a road map of sorts for people to take Next Steps with God. It's not only a guide to point towards a deeper relationship with God but a metric for believers to gauge their health as a 3C Christ follower. This is done through three separate actions: Celebrate, Connect, and Contribute.

The Nine is further divided into degrees of next stepping and moves left to right as a progressive journey of faith.

**Activity:**

Take a look at The Nine on the next page.

- Select volunteers from the group explain the different squares.
- Have each person from the group share a Next Step they want to pursue taking this fall.
- Write down these Next Steps so you can pray for, encourage, and support each other.
- Break into smaller groups or pairs to pray for one another as you end Small Group today.

The Nine:

HELPING PEOPLE TAKE NEXT STEPS WITH GOD

CELEBRATE

weekends

baptism

daily encounter

CONNECT

next step groups

small groups

coaching groups

CONTRIBUTE

team

tithe

go+be

THE BIBLE

the nine