

# unleashed

the church turning the world upside down

## LIFE! Group

### Study Guide

*Unleashed: The Church Turning The World Upside Down*  
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Requests for information should be addressed to:

Shepherd of the Hills Church  
19700 Rinaldi St.  
Porter Ranch CA, 91326

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*Artwork by Danny Caudillo*  
*Interior design and arrangement by Bahram Khayatpour*  
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# ***Unleashed***

Dear LIFE! Group members,

## **WHY SHOULD I BE IN THIS GROUP?**

At Shepherd of the Hills Church, we believe it is vitally important that you live out Jesus' mission in and through your life. Shepherd is dedicated to helping you do that through your LIFE! Group. Your LIFE! Group is a small group of people who will encourage and challenge you to live out Jesus' mission in you (2 Cor. 5:17) and through you (Matt. 28:19-20). This study guide and the accompanying DVD are based on Pastor Dudley's sermon series so that you can apply the truths of God's Word to your everyday life. By committing to become a part of this LIFE! Group, you can become a better leader/influencer for Christ.

## **HOW WILL THIS SERIES HELP ME?**

God's goal for His Church has not changed. His goal for us and His mission for us is the same as that of the first church in Acts. In order for us to better understand how to live out that mission as a church, we need to look at that first church and learn how they lived, and how God worked through them. As we learn how the Acts church looked and acted, we can learn to mirror them and therefore, become the people and church that God has always intended us to be.

## **WHAT IS MY ROLE IN THIS GROUP?**

As you attend a weekend service and participate in this LIFE! Group, you will be equipped to carry out our commission to "make disciples" of Jesus. Of course, the bottom line is, it comes down to you. Only you can share in your group, pray about the things God is teaching you and take action to allow Jesus to work in you and through you. Enjoy the encouragement and challenges that God desires to bring in your LIFE! Group.

# ***LIFE! Group Agreement***

It's a good idea for every group to put words to their shared values, expectations and commitments. Such guidelines will help you avoid unspoken agendas and unmet expectations. We recommend you discuss your guidelines in order to lay the foundation for a healthy group experience. Feel free to modify anything that does not work for your group. If the idea of a written agreement is unfamiliar to your group, we encourage you to give it a try.

## **WE AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING VALUES:**

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Clear Purpose</b>          | To encourage and challenge each other to <b>Live Jesus' Mission</b> in us and through us (Matthew 28:19-20).             |
| <b>Group Attendance</b>       | To give priority to the group meeting (call if I am absent or late).   |
| <b>Safe Environment</b>       | To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved (no quick answers, snap judgments or simple fixes). |
| <b>Be Confidential</b>        | To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group.  |
| <b>Spiritual Health</b>       | To give group members permission to help me live a healthy, balanced spiritual life that is pleasing to God.             |
| <b>Welcome Newcomers</b>      | To invite our friends who might benefit from this study and warmly welcome newcomers.                                    |
| <b>Building Relationships</b> | To get to know the other members of the group and pray for them regularly.   |

## ***WE HAVE ALSO DISCUSSED AND AGREE ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:***

*Childcare* \_\_\_\_\_

*Starting Time* \_\_\_\_\_

*Ending Time* \_\_\_\_\_

# Guide to the 4W's Lessons

The 4W's lesson is the structure that the LIFE! Groups follow whenever they gather together. At Shepherd of the Hills, our small group study is sermon-based. In other words, all of the lessons are based on the sermons or the sermon series the pastor preaches. These lessons are designed to help each group member participate and gain deeper insight into each topic by following what we call the "4W's" lesson.

<b>WELCOME</b>	The welcome time revolves around easy-to-answer, fun questions that invite involvement from everyone and help to break the ice. This time is designed to allow the group members to get to know each other.	<i>You to me</i>
<b>WORD</b>	In this section, you and your group will study through a passage or two. The questions you answer are not academically oriented. Rather, we are more interested in how you apply the Bible to your life. Thus, the questions will be geared to make you think about your life, how the passage relates to you and how it can motivate you to serve God.	<i>God to us</i>
<b>WORSHIP</b>	We worship God in all we do. One specific way we can worship God is through praying for and encouraging each other. This time is for you to share prayer requests as well as pray for each other in your group.	<i>Us to God</i>
<b>WALK &amp; WITNESS</b>	Walk is about putting what you just learned into action. It is about walking the talk. Witness is for prayer and planning for outreach. We ask that all groups do some sort of evangelistic project each series. Most groups have found that they have made significant contributions to society through this, and have made a lasting impact on people's lives for Jesus.	<i>God through us</i>

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WEEK 1

Unleashed



# WORD | GROW

Over 2,000 years ago, God unleashed His Holy Spirit, and the first Church was born. That church stood before religious and political leaders, spread in size and impact in spite of persecution and influenced the world for good, bringing to light the Lord Jesus Christ and salvation to all who call upon His name. It is time for today's Church to become like that first New Testament church.

## Read Acts 1:1-8

1. What two commands did Jesus give His disciples to do in verse 4? Although these commands required no action, how were they still difficult to follow?
2. How does Jesus' commands in Acts echo what He said in Luke 24:49, John 15:26-27 and John 16:7? Why do you believe the power of the Holy Spirit was necessary for the ministry of the disciples? Why is it essential for our Christian lives and ministries today?
3. What can we learn about Jesus' view and value of the Holy Spirit based upon His references to the Holy Spirit? Compare and contrast Jesus' view of the Holy Spirit to how Christians view the Holy Spirit today.
4. How are the two effects of the Holy Spirit in verse 8 related and why is the order in which they happen important? In what ways does this change your perspective on the Holy Spirit and sharing the Gospel?

5. Read Acts 17:1-7. The gift of the Holy Spirit is the launching pad for Christ's ministry on earth. In the English Standard Version, Acts 17:6 it reads: "These men who have turned the world upside down." Who do you know that has "turned the world upside down" by sticking to their Christian beliefs? List some common characteristics that you see in them.
  
6. In what ways has the Church, throughout history, turned the world upside down? How do you think the Church today would change the world if it started acting more like the church found in Acts?
  
7. When you became a Christian, how did your life turn upside down? What was the reaction of your un-saved family, friends and co-workers?
  
8. How do Matthew 28:18-20 and Matthew 24:14 set the vision and direction for the life of each believer as well as the purpose of the Church?
  
9. What are some things you can do to remember that the Holy Spirit and His power have been unleashed on you, and therefore, allow your life to be unleashed on others?

10. **TAKEAWAY:** Take a moment to write down one thing you learned in this lesson that you can apply to your life and then go around and share it with the group.

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## **WORSHIP** | **SURRENDER**

Read Romans 15:13. Go around and pray for God's power to be revealed to you through the Holy Spirit so that you can change the world for Jesus.

# WALK & WITNESS | ACT & SERVE

Beginnings are the best time to invite someone new. Think about someone that you would like to invite to the group next week. It is important to pray for them, so try to think of a few people and write their names down in this section. Make every effort to invite others as well as to pray for a spirit of boldness.

The diagram consists of three overlapping circles arranged in a triangle. The top circle is labeled "FAMILY" and contains three horizontal lines. The bottom-left circle is labeled "CO-WORKERS" and contains four horizontal lines. The bottom-right circle is labeled "FRIENDS" and contains four horizontal lines. The circles overlap in the center and at the intersections between adjacent circles.

Take a few minutes to pray, in groups of two or three, for the names you have written down here.

