

# NEVER

*too far — gone*



## PARTICIPANT GUIDE

# Welcome

Dear Community Group Participant,

We are delighted to welcome you to our insightful new study series, *Never Too Far Gone*. Your decision to join this faith journey alongside your fellow group members is deeply appreciated by us, your pastors. We are excited for the growth, exploration, and transformation that await you in this spiritual adventure.

*Never Too Far Gone* delves into the rich and complex period of the Judges in Israel, offering lessons about obedience, discernment, and God's guidance. This series is crafted to challenge and encourage us to reflect deeply on these biblical stories and their profound implications in our own lives. We believe these narratives hold key insights for understanding our faith and our calling in today's world.

Your Participant Guide is a vital companion for this series. It is structured to lead you through each week, enhancing your understanding of the themes, providing space for reflection, and encouraging deeper engagement with Scripture and your community group.

Each weekly section includes:

- **Intro:** An introduction to the week's specific theme, setting the stage for the sermon and group discussions.
- **Sermon Notes:** A dedicated space for noting down insights, thoughts, and personal reflections from the weekly sermon.
- **Group Video and Community Group Questions:** Materials and discussion questions for your group meetings are designed to foster rich and meaningful conversations.
- **Community Group Notes, Scripture, Challenge, Prayer:** This section contains the Scripture for the week, a practical challenge inspired by the teachings, and prompts for prayer.
- **Links to Daily Devotionals:** From Monday through Saturday, these devotionals delve deeper into the week's theme, aiding in your personal reflection and spiritual growth.

We encourage you to engage with this material fully. Let it be a tool through which God speaks to you, guiding you in study, prayer, and fellowship. Document your insights, questions, and revelations, as they can serve as powerful testaments of your spiritual journey.

Thank you once again for being an integral part of this journey. We are eager to see how these ancient stories resonate with and transform our community today.

Blessings,

**Your c|Life Pastors**

# c|Life App

The c|Life app is your all-in-one connection to the c|Life community. Stay updated and engaged with your church right on your phone. Catch up on missed sermons, connect with your Community Group, and manage giving seamlessly. Carry your church with you. Connect, participate, and grow in faith, all in one place.



[clifec.com/app](https://clifec.com/app)



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## c|Life on YouTube

Looking for more resources to enrich your Community Group sessions? Check out the c|Life YouTube channel. It's your one-stop hub for sermon videos, Community Group materials, and tons of other inspiring content. Dive deeper into the Word and explore creative ways to engage your group with the wealth of information available.



[youtube.com/communitylifechurch](https://youtube.com/communitylifechurch)

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# Community Group Agreement

## Our Purpose

To provide an environment where participants experience authentic community and spiritual growth.

## Our Values

- **Group Attendance:** To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent. (Completing the Group Calendar on the next page should minimize this issue.)
- **Safe Environment:** To create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved. (Please, no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes).
- **Respecting Differences:** To be gentle and gracious to group members with different personal opinions, temperaments, imperfections, or levels of spiritual maturity. We are all works in progress.
- **Confidentiality:** To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.
- **Encouraging Growth:** To be givers of life, not just takers. We want to spiritually multiply our lives by serving others with our God-given gifts.
- **Shared Ownership:** To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attender will share a small team role or responsibility over time.
- **Rotating Hosts/Leaders and Homes:** To encourage different people to host the group in their homes and to rotate the responsibility of facilitating each meeting. (See the Group Calendar on the next page.)

# Our Expectations

**Refreshments/Meals:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**When we will meet (day):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Where we will meet (place):** \_\_\_\_\_

**We will begin at (time):** \_\_\_\_\_

**and end at (time):** \_\_\_\_\_

**We will try to have as many of us as possible attend a worship service together each week. Our primary worship service time will be:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date of this agreement:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date we will review this agreement:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Who (other than the leader) will review this agreement at the end of this study:**

\_\_\_\_\_

## Open Chair

Set an open chair (maybe two) in the circle of your group and explain that it represents someone who would enjoy or benefit from this group but who is not here yet. Ask people to pray about inviting someone to join the group over the next few weeks. Hand out postcards and have everyone write an invitation or two. Don't worry about ending up with too many people. You can always have two discussion circles in different rooms after you watch the lesson. Each group could then report prayer requests and progress at the end of the session.

Who are you praying for?

## Community Group Calendar

Week #	Date	Location	Teacher	Snacks
01				
02				
03				
04				
05				
06				

## Group Contact Information

Name	Number	Email

# WEEK ONE

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*Israel's Digression: A Cautionary Tale for Today*

## Intro

This week, we examine the journey of Israel from a nation chosen by God to one that gradually turned its back on Him. The steps toward digression are often subtle but perilous. Let's explore how Israel's journey serves as a cautionary tale for us today.

## Sermon Notes

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# Video

This week, Pastor Randy Wade discusses Israel's digression and draws relevant parallels for our modern lives, especially within the Church.



**clifec.com/  
ntfg-video-1**

## CG Notes

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# Make It Personal

**Pastor's Insights:** In the video, Pastor Randy explained how Israel's history serves as a cautionary tale. What contemporary issues or personal behaviors do you see as parallels to Israel's digression?

**Applying the Lesson:** Considering Pastor Randy's points, how can we actively avoid making the same mistakes in our personal lives and communities?

## Scripture

*... everyone did as they saw fit.*

**Judges 21:25**

## Going Deeper

After reading Judges 21:25, what thoughts come to mind regarding the state of Israel then and perhaps society today?

The Israelites were chosen to be a blessing to the world but digressed significantly. How does this serve as a cautionary tale for us, especially in the Church?

What are some subtle ways you've seen digression in your faith or the broader church community?

## The Challenge

This week's challenge is to identify one area in your faith life where you might be compromising or drifting away from God. Take time each day to pray for discernment and guidance in this area. Write down any insights you receive and be prepared to share with the group next week if you feel comfortable doing so.

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# Prayer Time

Use this space to write down any prayer requests from your group this week. Remember, we are here to support each other in prayers and in deeds.

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# Reading Plan

Follow along daily with this week's reading plan,  
**Week 1: Israel's Digression**



[clifec.com/ntfg-plan](http://clifec.com/ntfg-plan)

# WEEK TWO

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## *Fear of Man vs. Fear of God: The Path to Obedience*

### Intro

This week, we delve into the concept of fear. The Israelites often hesitated in obedience to God because they feared men more than God Himself. We'll explore what it means to fear God and how that leads us to true obedience.

### Sermon Notes

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# Make It Personal

**Confronting Our Fears:** Pastor Rocky talked about the tension between fearing man and fearing God. Can you share an example from your life where you felt this tension?

**Choosing God's Way:** What are some practical steps we can take to prioritize God's approval over human approval, as discussed by Pastor Rocky?

## Scripture

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

**Proverbs 9:10**

## Going Deeper

Proverbs 9:10 tells us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. What does "fear of the Lord" mean to you?

How can a proper understanding of fearing God lead us away from fearing men and toward obedience?

Are there areas in your life where the fear of man prevents you from fully walking in God's plan for you?

## The Challenge

This week's challenge is to list some specific situations where you find yourself fearing men more than God. For each situation, note down a corresponding scripture that talks about the fear of God. Meditate on these verses daily and be ready to share any revelations or changes you experience.

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# Prayer Time

Use this space to note down any prayer requests from your group this week. Remember, we are here to support each other in prayers and in deeds.

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# Reading Plan

Follow along daily with this week's reading plan,  
**Week 2: Fear of Man vs. Fear of God**



[clifec.com/ntfg-plan](http://clifec.com/ntfg-plan)

# WEEK THREE

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*Remembering God's Works: The Antidote to Idolatry*

## Intro

This week, we focus on the danger of forgetting God and His miraculous works. The Israelites quickly fell into idolatry when they forgot what God had done for them. Remembering God's deeds is crucial for avoiding the pitfalls of idol worship.

## Sermon Notes

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# Make It Personal

**The Role of Memory:** Reflecting on Pastor Jerrod’s discussion about the importance of remembering God’s works, why is this remembrance critical in resisting idolatry?

**Personal Application:** How can we incorporate the act of remembering God’s works into our daily lives, as suggested by Pastor Jerrod?

## Scripture

*... And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.*

**Judges 2:10**

## Going Deeper

How can forgetting what God has done for us lead us towards idolatry?

Are there idols in your life that have taken the place of God? How can remembering God’s works help you get rid of these idols?

Discuss an instance when you forgot God’s goodness and it led you astray. What did you learn from that experience?

## The Challenge

This week’s challenge is to create a “Spiritual Milestones” journal. Write down key moments when you’ve seen God’s hand at work in your life. Review this journal daily to remind yourself of God’s faithfulness and power. Share any insights you gain with the group next week.

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# Prayer Time

Use this space to note down any prayer requests from your group this week. Remember, we are here to support each other in prayers and in deeds.

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# Reading Plan

Follow along daily with this week's reading plan,  
**Week 3: Remembering God's Works**



[clifec.com/ntfg-plan](http://clifec.com/ntfg-plan)



# WEEK FOUR

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*The Pitfall of Tolerance: Lovingly Intolerant*

## Intro

In today's culture, tolerance is often praised as a virtue. But when it comes to our faith, too much tolerance can be harmful. This week, we examine the line between love and tolerance and explore how we can be "lovingly intolerant."

## Sermon Notes

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# Make It Personal

**Tolerance vs. Faith:** In the video, Pastor Randy highlighted the pitfalls of tolerance. How can we maintain our faith convictions while being respectful of others, especially in a diverse society?

**Setting Boundaries:** Pastor Randy discussed being “lovingly intolerant.” Can you think of a situation where you had to uphold your faith beliefs? How did you handle it?

## Scripture

*Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?*

**2 Corinthians 6:14**

## Going Deeper

What does it mean to be “lovingly intolerant” in your faith?

How does the Church often misunderstand tolerance? Where should the boundaries be?

Can you share an instance where you had to be lovingly intolerant for the sake of your faith? How did it turn out?

## The Challenge

Your challenge this week is to evaluate your own tolerance levels in different areas of life. Are there beliefs or behaviors you have tolerated that are not in line with your faith? Take one step this week to realign that area with God’s Word. Be prepared to share your experience with the group next week.



# WEEK FIVE

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## *The Danger of Syncretism: Uncompromising Faith*

### Intro

In a world that constantly mingles differing ideologies and practices, the risk of syncretism — blending worldly views with spiritual beliefs — becomes greater. This week, we focus on maintaining an uncompromising faith in an ever-compromising world.

### Sermon Notes

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# Video

This week, Pastor David Griffin will explore the issue of syncretism and its influence on our spiritual lives, emphasizing the importance of an uncompromising faith.



[clifec.com/  
ntfg-video-5](http://clifec.com/ntfg-video-5)

## CG Notes

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# Make It Personal

**Recognizing Syncretism:** Pastor David addressed the issue of syncretism in the video. Have you witnessed or experienced syncretism in your faith journey? How did it manifest?

**Maintaining Pure Faith:** What strategies or practices can we adopt, as mentioned by Pastor David, to keep our faith uncompromised by external influences?

## Scripture

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

**Romans 12:2**

## Going Deeper

How do you define “syncretism”, and why is it dangerous for Christians?

Can you identify any areas in your life or in the church where syncretism might be creeping in?

How can we guard ourselves against syncretism and maintain an uncompromising faith?

## The Challenge

Your challenge for this week is to audit your life for signs of syncretism. Is there an area where you've compromised your faith to blend in or get along? Commit to one concrete action to bring that area back in line with God's Word, and be prepared to share your experience with the group next week.

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# Prayer Time

Use this space to note down any prayer requests from your group this week. Remember, we are here to support each other in prayers and in deeds.

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# Reading Plan

Follow along daily with this week's reading plan,  
**Week 5: The Danger of Syncretism**



**[clifec.com/ntfg-plan](http://clifec.com/ntfg-plan)**

# WEEK SIX

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*Complete Abandonment: Returning to First Love*

## Intro

At times in our spiritual journey, we may drift away from God, abandoning the practices and principles that initially drew us to Him. This week, we will explore the process of returning to our first love and rekindling the relationship with God.

## Sermon Notes

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# Video

This week, Pastor Rocky Hernandez discusses the critical topic of coming back to God after seasons of abandonment, emphasizing the constant, pursuing love of God.



**clifec.com/  
ntfg-video-6**

# CG Notes

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# Make It Personal

**Rediscovering Passion:** Following Pastor Rocky's talk on 'returning to first love,' what does this concept mean to you personally? Share a time when you felt this return in your faith.

**Reviving Our Faith:** As Pastor Rocky suggested, how can we reignite our passion and commitment to our spiritual journey?

## Scripture

*Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first...*

**Revelation 2:4-5**

## Going Deeper

What does "complete abandonment" mean in the context of our relationship with God?

Can you share a time when you felt far from God? What steps did you take to return to Him?

Why do you think it's so easy for people to drift away from their relationship with God?

## The Challenge

Your challenge for this week is to identify one practice or habit that you had when your relationship with God was strongest. Reintroduce that practice into your daily routine for the next week, taking note of any changes you experience in your spiritual life. Be prepared to share your experiences next week.

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# Prayer Time

Document any prayer requests from your group. As we conclude this series, let's take time to support one another in prayer, asking for renewed focus and dedication in our relationship with God.

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# Reading Plan

Follow along daily with this week's reading plan,  
**Week 6: Complete Abandonment**



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# Closing Thoughts

Dear Friend,

As our journey through the *Never Too Far Gone* Community Group series comes to a close, we extend our deepest gratitude for your active participation and commitment. Your presence and engagement have greatly enriched our collective exploration of the powerful lessons from the time of the Judges.

We hope that this series has kindled a renewed passion in your faith journey, leading to a deeper understanding of God's guidance and a stronger commitment to living out your faith. As we conclude, we encourage you to continue seeking wisdom, growth, and transformation in every aspect of your life.

Please remember that numerous resources are at your disposal to further enrich your spiritual walk. Our YouTube channel and The Bible App offer a variety of study materials, devotionals, and insightful content to aid in your continued exploration of faith. Regularly visit these platforms to discover new sermons, teachings, and inspirational content.



[bible.com/  
app](https://bible.com/app)



[youtube.com/  
communitylifechurch](https://youtube.com/communitylifechurch)

Your feedback is extremely valuable to us. It helps us better understand your experience and guides us in enhancing future community group studies. We would be grateful if you could take a moment to fill out a brief survey about your experience with the *Never Too Far Gone* Community Group series.



[clifec.com/  
ntfg-survey](https://clifec.com/ntfg-survey)

Thank you once again for embarking on this enlightening journey with us. We pray that the insights gained during this series will continue to resonate and bear fruit in your life and in your walk with Christ.

In His love and service,  
**Your c|Life Pastors**





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