

COMMUNITY LIFE

Community Group Leader Guide

For the Week of September 22 – 28, 2024

Sermon Series: *Ever Wonder Why?* — Week 2

Watch the Leader Video and find all your resources online at
<https://clifec.com/community-group-resources/>

Need to watch the sermon? Check out our YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/@CommunityLifeChurch>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Iron Church Men's Night of Worship

Men, mark your calendars! Join us for an unforgettable Iron Church Men's Night of Worship on October 7, 2024, featuring guest speaker Tierce Green. This will be a powerful night of worship, fellowship, and inspiration you won't want to miss.

Register now at clifec.com/men and invite your friends to experience this transformative evening together.

It's Not Too Late to Join a Community Group!

Looking to connect and grow in your faith? It's not too late to join a Community Group right here on campus! Whether you're new or returning, there's a place for you to find meaningful relationships and spiritual growth. If you'd like to learn more or get involved, stop by the Connect Center after the service. Our team is ready to answer any questions and help you find the perfect group to fit your schedule and interests. Don't miss out on the opportunity to be part of something life-changing!

Baptism Sunday at c|Life

Sunday, September 29th.

If you've made a decision to follow Christ and are ready to take the next step through baptism, we're excited to walk with you! Our next baptism service will be on September 29, 2024.

SHARE

Icebreaker:

What's the most ridiculous fact you know that no one ever believes at first?

Quick Review:

We're two weeks deep in a series called *Ever Wonder Why?*, which is all about addressing the hard questions that we all tend to think of as we journey through life. This week, the big focus was on the question, 'Why should I trust the Bible?'

Make It Personal:

1. Why do you believe The Bible is trustworthy? Have you ever questioned its authenticity?
2. What modern cultural beliefs challenge your view of The Bible? Is there anything within it that makes you wrestle with your faith?

STUDY

Go Deeper:

1. Read the opening verses of Genesis 3. Why do you think Satan's first attack on humanity involved questioning the Word of God?
2. What do you find most challenging about explaining The Bible's divine inspiration to non believers?

Action Steps:

1. Write down any doubts or questions you have about the Bible and commit to researching them.
2. Memorize a key verse that affirms the Bible's authority, such as 2 Timothy 3:16.
3. Invite a non-believing friend to study the Bible with you and engage in open discussions.

PRAYER

If you haven't done so yet, assign someone in the group to write down your prayer requests and share them in a group chat so you can all be praying about them later in the week. Allow everyone to submit a prayer request. Here are other things you can pray about:

1. Pray for those wrestling with the authenticity of the scriptures.
2. Pray for a deeper understanding of the Bible as God's word and its relevance in your life.
3. Pray for courage, gentleness, and clarity when sharing the truth of the Bible with others.\

BONUS CONTENT FOR LEADERS

Create space for honest questions this week.

Foster an environment where your CG feels safe to ask tough questions about the Bible's authenticity, contradictions, or relevance. Normalize questioning as part of the faith journey, offering a judgment-free space to explore these questions.

Encourage group members to read for themselves

Challenge your CG to move beyond just hearing Scripture during meetings. Encourage group members to develop personal Bible study habits, using devotionals, reading plans, or study tools to deepen their own engagement with God's Word.

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Remind your CG that understanding and applying Scripture requires the Holy Spirit's guidance. Encourage them to regularly open Bible study time with prayer, asking the Spirit to bring clarity, conviction, and transformation through the reading of God's Word.

Punt on the answers you don't know.

Anticipate tough questions about the Bible's authority, historical accuracy, and relevance... and don't fake an answer! Instead, equip your CG with resources like books, podcasts, and articles on biblical reliability, archaeology, and theology. Something like *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel or *Can We Trust the Gospels?* by Peter J. Williams could be very useful!