

NOTE FROM PASTOR JONATHAN

Confessions of Faith, Baptisms, Memberships, Discovery, and Making Disciples

A lot goes on in Life Groups that the rest of the church doesn't always see, like when people first confess their faith in Jesus. We want to know when that happens so we can all celebrate with you (Luke 15:3-7)! We also want to know when people in our Life Groups want to pursue next steps in their relationship with Jesus by pursuing baptism or membership, growing through Discovery, or serving through making disciples.

Please let me know by June 15 how many people have made a confession of faith in Jesus, pursued baptism or membership, decided to take Discovery classes, or are working toward making disciples during this ministry year (September 2024 to June 2025) so we can rejoice with you!

Connect and Explore – Alpha

Do you know anyone looking for a place to bring all their questions about Christianity? They can be people in your Life Group, family members, neighbors, co-workers, or friends. They can also be non-Christians or new believers. If you do, we have the perfect place for them! We will have a four-week course called Connect & Explore – Alpha. They'll watch a 30-minute video, introducing big questions to set up the discussion. Then attendees will have a chance to talk about life, faith, and God in a safe setting where everyone's there to connect and explore Christianity together.

Check the link for more information and registration information: <https://willingdon.org/explore/>. The registration deadline is May 19, but try to sign up as soon as possible! If you have any questions, please email our Connect Pastor, Nicole (nyang@willingdon.org).

QUESTION OVERVIEW

Please select any questions you feel will help your group dig deeper into God's Word.

Check out my Notes and Commentary (<https://willingdon.org/lifegroups/leaders-corner>).

Let's Warm Up: Questions to break the ice.

1. Who has lived the furthest away from the Vancouver area? Who has grown up closest to Willingdon?
2. Find something all of your group shares (besides Christianity!), such as favorite cuisine, hobby, or habit.
3. Growing up, what was the hardest command from your parents to follow?

Let's Get Started: Questions to start thinking about the main themes.

4. When you think of Jesus' commands, what first comes to mind?
5. Which of Jesus' teachings does the world consider "outmoded, superseded, or proven to be untrue"?
How can we demonstrate the beauty and truth of those teachings when they conflict with the world?

Let's Dig In: Questions to discuss the passage and how we can respond.

6. Why did Jesus want His disciples to teach all He "commanded"?
What happens if we don't teach them as commands?
7. How can it be helpful to let other Christians know which commands you're struggling with?
Share one or two with the group.
8. Pastor Ray said, Jesus' question for you and I is not: "What is your past?" It is not: "How much have you studied?" It is not: "How long have you been my disciple?" His question is: "Are you passing on what you have received?"
How does being stuck on the wrong question prevent making disciples?
How does the right question help us make disciples?
9. Pastor Ray shared the discipleship cycle: "We make disciples who follow Jesus, who are then baptized into the church family (where we grow together), where we together embrace the mission to multiply disciples. And then the cycle begins all over again."
Why is it vital to keep the circle going?
10. One of the persecuted pastors wrote:
"Faith in Canada may seem easier. You have freedom. Churches are open. Bibles sit on shelves. Sermons are recorded and shared online. But my brothers and sisters; do you know where the real danger lies? In comfort. In indifference. In a spiritual slumber wrapped in the soft pillow of convenience, quietly stealing away our faith. Let us wake up! Let us awaken to the truth that Christianity is not just a lifestyle or a collection of teachings. Faith is warfare. Faith is shining light into darkness. Faith is lifting the banner of God's Kingdom in a world that opposes Him."
How can Jesus' presence help us overcome the dangers of comfort so we can make disciples?