

2025/2026 Life Group Monthly Themes

SEPTEMBER: EXPERIENCE JESUS ANEW

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”
Lamentations 3:22–24

Life isn't easy, but God's love and mercy are fresh everyday. He's infinite, so we'll never grow tired of Him. When God seems boring or dull, it's usually because we've limited our understanding of Him.

Let's start fresh! Prayerfully consider how Jesus wants your group to grow this season. Any new ways to gather as family, grow closer to Jesus as disciples, or go on mission?

WEEK 1: Are there types of prayer you have been missing out on? Adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication/intercession, lament, and consecration are a few ways to pray. Are there people you can begin praying for, such as neighbors, those who are lost, or missionaries?

WEEK 2: What's a new way to meet together? Can someone open their home for the first time? Are there any new activities you can try, such as potlucks, praise nights, or prayer chains?

WEEK 3: What's holding you back from experiencing God more? Is there a struggle you're facing or an area you're ignorant of? How can your group grow and encounter God in new ways?

WEEK 4: What's a new way your group can serve together? Has God put an opportunity or need in your hearts? This could be serving a church ministry, volunteering in your neighborhood, or supporting a mission team.

OCTOBER: THANK JESUS

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the Father of lights,
with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.
James 1:17

It's too easy to complain! Listen to the people around you. Are they more likely to gripe or show gratitude? Too much negativity is bad for the soul.

We celebrate Thanksgiving in October, so let's thank God for His countless blessings! Make a list and compete to see who can make the longest.

WEEK 1: Thank Jesus for every little thing we may take for granted. What have you enjoyed today? Good weather, food, or a moment to breathe?

WEEK 2: Thank Jesus for the struggles that help us grow to be more like Him and depend on Him more. Share how He used trials to show up and shape you.

WEEK 3: Thank Jesus for dying on the cross, even though we didn't deserve it. What would happen to us if He didn't? What do we gain because He died? Who needs to know what Jesus did?

WEEK 4: Thank Jesus for not leaving us alone, but giving us the church and the Holy Spirit. How have they blessed you? Are there believers in your life who don't realize they have such a blessing?

NOV: PERSECUTED FOR JESUS

Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them,
and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.
Hebrews 13:3

The International Day of Prayer (IDOP) for the Persecuted Church is November 2. There's growing pushback against Christianity here in Canada, but it's nothing like what Christians are facing around the world. Over 380 million Christians (almost 10x the population of Canada) suffer because they love Jesus. These aren't foreign strangers. They're our brothers and sisters.

Let's pray for our spiritual family who are suffering for their love of Jesus! Each week, pick a country on the World Watch List. Learn about what they're facing and put yourself in their shoes. Pray for strength to meet violence with love (Romans 12:17-21). Pray for the Holy Spirit to convict persecutors and bring them to repentance, just as He did with Paul (Acts 9:1-18). Pray for strength when facing opposition to our faith.

Additional Resources:

Voice of the Martyrs (<https://www.persecution.com>): Read more stories of persecution and a prayer guide.

Open Doors UK & Ireland (<https://www.youtube.com/@opendoorsuk>): Watch incredible Christians coming to faith in hostile countries and see how Jesus empowers His followers.

How Thousands of Christians Died: Persecution & Martyrdom (<https://youtu.be/BpHT20xrxml>): Get an idea of how Christians have faced persecution over the past 2,000 years.

DECEMBER: SHARE JESUS

For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed?
And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?
And how are they to hear without someone preaching?
And how are they to preach unless they are sent?
As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”
Romans 10:13-15

Based on Christmas decorations, songs, and traditions, it's clear most people think Christmas is about shopping, Santa, and sleigh rides.

Let's share the real reason for Christmas! They need to know God's real gift.

WEEK 1: What Christmas traditions do you celebrate? Do they point to Jesus' birth and ministry? If not, what can you change to point to Him?

WEEK 2: What people has God put in your life who don't know Jesus? Pray for opportunities to share the Gospel with them and invite them to Willingdon. Pray that they will be receptive.

WEEK 3: Practice sharing the Gospel by taking turns pretending to be non-believers or skeptics. What questions or responses do you think they would have to the Gospel? How can we answer them?

WEEK 4: How can you keep the joy and excitement of Christmas all year long? The amazement towards God fulfilling His promise through Jesus' birth doesn't end when you put the decorations away and the last pumpkin-spiced latte is sipped. What can you do to keep the fire going?

JANUARY: JESUS' KINGDOM

Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Matthew 6:9-10

January marks the beginning of a new year with new beginnings, resolutions, and dreams. But there's one goal that's been going on since the beginning: the full establishment of God's kingdom on earth.

Let's pray for Jesus' kingdom to grow here in the world we live in.

WEEK 1: Pray for Jesus to establish His kingdom in our hearts. Pray for the Holy Spirit to convict us of our sins and lead us to repentance.

WEEK 2: Pray for Jesus to establish His kingdom in Willingdon. Pray that God would give our elders and pastors a clear vision of what God wants. Pray for the Holy Spirit to unite our church with one heart.

WEEK 3: Pray for Jesus to establish His kingdom across Metro Vancouver and to send us to share the Gospel with our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and more. Pray for the Holy Spirit to spiritually awaken everyone who hears.

WEEK 4: Pray for Jesus to establish His kingdom across the whole world. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bring widespread revival in lapsed Christians and bring billions around the world to faith.

FEBRUARY: JESUS' FAMILY

While he was still speaking to the people, behold,
his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him.
But he replied to the man who told him, "Who is my mother, and who are my
brothers?"
And stretching out his hand toward his disciples,
he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!
For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and
mother."
Matthew 12:46–50

February means Valentine's and Family Day, both celebrations of deep, meaningful relationships. Thank God for giving us loved ones to belong to, especially the church family.

Let's celebrate our family in Jesus! Whether or not you have biological or legal family members, you have a spiritual family that spans across the world and time.

WEEK 1: Share how being part of Jesus' family has impacted your life. How have you experienced support, love, compassion, and care in times of need? How has serving them caused you to grow? How have they guided you in your journey to follow Jesus?

WEEK 2: Think about how you've benefited from a spiritual family from last week. How can your Life Group grow as a family in those areas? Are there any areas you can reinforce or weaknesses to fill in?

WEEK 3: Get to know others in our spiritual family that you haven't met. This could be people in Willingdon or other churches. They're not actually strangers, since you're all connected by Jesus.

WEEK 4: Who in your life doesn't have a family (biological, legal, or spiritual)? What are they missing by being alone? How can you invite them to your spiritual family?

MARCH: TAKE A BREAK WITH JESUS

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me,
for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28–30

March is spring break! At least it is if you're a student. If you're a parent, you're probably extra busy taking care of your kids. And if you're working, you probably don't get a break.

Let's rest in Jesus! Life's intense and exhausting. Bring Him our bothers, burdens, battles, blues, burnouts, and breakdowns. He gathered us to carry each other's burdens and provide refreshment.

WEEK 1: What is weighing your soul down? Are you stressed about work, family, or current events? What are you carrying that you need to give to Jesus? List it out. Give them to Jesus.

WEEK 2: When can you slip out to be with Jesus? Are there moments between meetings or pauses between responsibilities? Even one to ten minutes will do. How can you use those moments to talk to Jesus, rest in His promises, or enjoy His presence?

WEEK 3: How can you spend time with other believers to rest in Jesus together? Share your burdens, go on a prayer walk together, be a shoulder to cry on, or be the answer to others' prayers.

WEEK 4: How has God equipped and prepared you to help carry others as they struggle? Who has God put in your life so you can be there for them?

APRIL: NEW LIFE IN JESUS

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again
to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading,
kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith
for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:3–5

Jesus' death and resurrection guarantee us eternal life beyond this one in a new world beyond imagination. This hope should guide our day-to-day lives.

Let's realign our priorities in light of Jesus' resurrection and the hope He provides.

WEEK 1: If someone were to look at your life, what would they think your priorities are? Does it point to ultimate hope through Jesus' death and resurrection or something else?

WEEK 2: What shouldn't be so important in your life in light of Jesus' death and resurrection? What concerns or priorities distract you from what's really important?

WEEK 3: What in your life should be a higher priority? What concerns or priorities do you need to adopt?

WEEK 4: Consider how a properly ordered life can bring others to know Jesus and experience the blessings of His death and resurrection. How can your life be a witness to Jesus?

MAY: KING JESUS

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.
1 Timothy 2:1-2

We celebrate Victoria Day to honor Queen Victoria. She's known as the Queen of the Confederation because of her pivotal role in making Canada what it is. Without her, there probably wouldn't be Canada.

Let's be thankful that Jesus is King and pray for all He's put in charge! As we celebrate Victoria Day, thank God for all good leaders, from national to local. Pray that every leader will submit to Jesus and promote peace.

WEEK 1: Pray for our local leaders, like mayors and councillors, to have the wisdom and heart to discern the needs of the public, use public funds well, and make decisions that are best for our communities.

WEEK 2: Pray for our provincial and national leaders (like MLAs, MPs, premiers, and PMs) to have the wisdom and heart to make the right decisions and work towards righteousness and justice for BC and Canada.

WEEK 3: Pray for world leaders to put aside rivalries, greed, pride, and selfishness to do what's best for the world. Pray for an end to wars so that innocent blood will no longer be shed and life can thrive. Pray that they will work to reduce poverty and suffering.

WEEK 4: All of us have some level of leadership in relation to the people around us. We have employees who report to us, children or younger siblings who look up to us, or younger Christians who see us as more experienced. What does Christlike leadership look like in those contexts?

JUNE: REMEMBER JESUS' WORK

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,
 who forgives all your iniquity,
 who heals all your diseases,
 who redeems your life from the pit,
 who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
 who satisfies you with good
 so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
Psalm 103:1-5

It's the end of our ministry year, and we're wrapping up.

Let's list all that God has done over the year! Remember when He's answered prayers, enabled us to be more like Him, and more.

WEEK 1: What prayers has Jesus answered over the past year? Think back to last September. How have you grown over the past year? Are there any new healthy habits you've taken on or lessons learned? Have you experienced freedom from any sins?

WEEK 2: Find a creative or new way to memorialize God's good works so you can refer to it in the future. Do a group painting project, write some poetry or songs. Get your phone out and record a video! Do something to make it memorable.

WEEK 3: Don't keep it to yourself. Who can you share with? Tell Pastor Jonathan and other Life Groups. Tell Christians and non-Christians. Use the creative way from the previous week.

WEEK 4: Have a party and take turns celebrating and bragging about Jesus. Let it be a joyful time.