

Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday while diving deeper into God's word.

- *Kids say and do the funniest things. Who has a story?*
- *Do you celebrate Mother's Day weekend? If so, how?*
- *What insight, observation, or principle from this weekend's message did you find most helpful, insightful, or troubling? Explain.*

As the world grows more connected, our neighbors are closer than ever. But how close are we to our neighbors? You might not share a fence, but you can still share their burdens and joys. Now's the time to show the world, "How to Neighbor."

Start digging. Read Scripture about caring for children.

Mark 9:37

Isaiah 1:17

Mark 10:13-16

Psalms 127:3-5

- What insights or observations can be learned concerning helping those in need from these passages of scripture?
- Why do you think Jesus consistently tells his disciples to become like little children? What makes this such a difficult task for adults?

- How would your life look different if you believed you were God's "Plan A" to care for people without families?
- Read James 1:27. Why do you think widows and orphans are highlighted specifically? Why does James add, "remaining unpolluted from the world," along with caring for widows and orphans?
- Read Ephesians 1:4-8. Summarize this passage in one sentence. How does one become part of the family of God? What was your life like before you became a child of God? What about after? How has the father lavished you with his blessings? In what ways can you extend those blessings to others?
- What are some ways we as the church could care for Orphans beyond actually fostering or adopting?

Digging Deeper

- *On Sunday Pastor Jason presented 4 Marks of an Orphan Spirit. Which marks do you relate the most with and why?*
- *What is one intentional step you will take this week as a result of what God has taught you?*

HOW TO NEIGHBOR

ORPHANS EMBRACED

MAY 14TH, 2017

Mark 12:30-31 (ESV) *30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."*

James 1:27 (NIV) *Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*

**TO SAY YOU CARE, BUT NOT TO ACT,
IS TO NOT CARE AT ALL**

Psalms 82:3-4 (NIV) *3 Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. 4 Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.*

HOW TO NEIGHBOR THE ORPHAN?

1. ADMIT YOUR OWN ORPHAN SPIRIT.

Romans 8:14-15 (ESV) *14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"*

Orphan Spirit:

A spiritual condition in which Christians profess outwardly to know God as Father, but experience an internal contradiction to that belief.

4 MARKS OF AN ORPHAN SPRIT

➤ Competing and Needing to Stand Out

➤ Isolation or Independence

Hebrews 10:25 (NLT) *And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*

➤ Fear and Insecurity

Matt 10:29-31 (ESV) *29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. 32 So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, 33 but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.*

➤ Performance-Orientation

Ephesians 1:4-7 (NLT) *Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. 6 So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.* 7 He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.*

**AN ORPHAN RESPONDS OUT OF LACK. A CHILD OF GOD
RESPONDS OUT OF ABUNDANCE.**

2. ACCEPT THE FATHER'S EMBRACE.

3. EXTEND THE FATHER'S EMBRACE.