

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

Holiness That Divides – November 6, 2022

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

3 Parts of Sunday’s Sermon

- **God is Holy**
- **God is Love**
- **God is to be Honored**

I. God is Holy

- **Read and discuss** Exodus 22:16-17
- How do we know that this passage is not talking about rape? Read Deuteronomy 22:25-27 to help answer this question.
- If this is not rape, then why is it that only the man is being addressed in these two verses? What does this teach us about the responsibility of a man within the Israelite’s society? What principles can we learn from this passage that apply today?
- What does Exodus 22:16-17 teach us about premarital sex? According to these verses, are two people married just because they have had sex? What makes a person married?
- Holiness can be defined as “things put in their proper place.” How does this definition explain sex within and outside of marriage?
- How does this definition of holiness apply to genders and the roles given to both men and women?
- **Read and discuss** Exodus 22:18-20
- Why do you think it was the death penalty for sorcery? Read Leviticus 20:27 to help answer this question.

- Does the death penalty seem extreme in verse 20? Why do you think it was such a harsh punishment for sacrificing to pagan gods?

II. God is Love

- **Read and discuss** Exodus 22:21. What does verse 21 teach us about God's concern for the foreigner? Read Leviticus 19:33-34 to help answer this question. Why might a foreigner be subject to abuse?
- **Read and discuss** Exodus 22:22-24. What do these verses teach us about God's heart for the widow and orphan? What are some practical things you can do as a group to help take care of widows and orphans in our church & culture? Read James 1:27 to help answer this question.
- **Read and discuss** Exodus 22:25-27. How do these verses protect the poor? How were the Israelites called to reflect God's compassionate heart in their generosity? What principles from this passage apply to us today?

III. God is to be Honored

- **Read and Discuss** Exodus 22:28. How is this verse related to the 3rd Commandment (Exodus 20:7)?
- How does Exodus 22:28 relate to the 5th commandment (Exodus 20:12)? Read the following quote to help answer this question.
- *The parallelism of the passage implies that verbal respect for God and for rulers spring from the same source: a basic respect for authority.*
- **Read and discuss** the following verses
 - 1 Peter 2:16-17
 - Titus 3:1-2
- How are these 2 passages above hard to obey in today's political climate? How have social media and the internet made it even harder to honor our rulers? In what ways are you personally failing to honor those that are in authority over you?
- What are some practical ways you can honor those that are in authority over you while at the same time speaking truth in love?
- How are we training the next generation to honor and respect those in authority over them?

- **Read and discuss** Acts 23:1-5. Was Ananias acting in an honorable way? If not, then why was Paul wrong in his response to Ananias? What can we learn from this passage?
- Are Christians going to be more influential in our society if they act disrespectfully, just like the culture, or if they speak the truth in love, with honor and respect? Explain your answer.
- Why is the reputation of our speech so important? Read 2 Corinthians 5:20 and Romans 10:14-15 to help answer this question.
- **Read and discuss** Exodus 22:29-30. What principles can we learn from these verses?
- **Read and discuss** Exodus 22:31. Why do you think the Israelites were not allowed to eat an animal that had died naturally? Read Deuteronomy 14:21 to help answer this question.
- Why does Exodus 22:31 have more to do with holiness than health?

Final Prayer

Grant, almighty God, that as you try us in the warfare of the cross, and arouse most powerful enemies whose barbarity might justly terrify and dishearten us, were we not depending on your aid - O grant that we may call to mind how wonderfully you did in former times deliver your people, and how seasonably you did bring them help, when they were oppressed and entirely overwhelmed, so that we may learn at this day to flee to your protection, and not doubt, that when you become propitious to us there is in your sufficient power to preserve us, and to lay prostrate our enemies, however much they may now exult and think to triumph above the heavens, so that they may at length know by experience that they are earthly and frail creatures, whose life and condition is like the mist which soon vanishes; and may we learn to aspire after that blessed eternity which is laid up for us in heaven through Christ our Lord. - **John Calvin**

Announcements:

CCW Christmas Card/Gift Table Update

Sunday, November 6 & 13 | Chapel

All of the CCW gift requests have been taken, thank you! But we still need your help! We want to send your family's Christmas card to our CCWs to help them feel included in their church community. Please bring 3 copies of your Christmas card to the table in the Chapel on Sundays, and we will ship them to our CCW families with their gifts. In exchange for your cards, we will give you Christmas cards from each CCW family. You can also bring 3 copies of a family photo and/or a note containing updates from your year and encouragement for our CCWs. **Bring CCW Christmas gifts and cards to the church office or Chapel table no later than 12pm on Sunday, November 13.** To keep our CCWs safe, any written material must ***not*** include the words: Missionary, Evangelism, Convert, or Baptism.

Prayer for the Nations Night

Friday, November 11 | 6pm | Donckels' home

Join us at the Donckels' home (20614 Oak Pass Avenue) on Friday as we gather for a night of prayer for the unreached.

Membership Class Session #1

Sunday, November 13 | 8:50am | Room 202

Come learn more about what membership is and what it looks like at COBC. Find out how membership encourages us to care for and be accountable to our church family. Let us know you're coming - sign up online at cobc.churchcenter.com/registrations.

CCW Committee Meeting

Sunday, November 13 | 12:30pm | Room 402

Join our CCW committee in prayer as we gather together to pray for the church body and our cross-cultural workers.