

The Lifeguard

Life Group Agenda for the week of July 10th through 16th

WELCOME (15 min) – Welcome everyone. This is a time for us to focus outward on our relationships with one another. Share the Goals and 1 Guideline. This week, we are beginning a series titled, “*Summer Splash*.” Let’s **stop and pray** for our church at this time.

WORSHIP (15 min) – This is a time for us to focus upward on our relationship with the Lord. Prepare a creative worship time that can be enjoyed by Children as well as adults/teens (*you will be releasing the Children to their Kids Slot time after the worship*).

WORD (45 min) – This is a time for us to focus inward and discover what the Lord is saying to us individually and collectively through His Word. **This week’s truth to be shared:** *We can and should seek to know and worship God who is the source of life.*

Summer is a great time to get outdoors and enjoy the sun, the pool, the beach and all of the other fun activities we associate with this time of year. A “fixture” at many pools and beaches is the lifeguard. Lifeguards have a tremendous responsibility to watch out for people, many of whom they do not even know, who may get into trouble in the water. If you are ever in need of a lifeguard, chances are that you won’t know that person, but will be glad they were there to help you in your time of distress.

INTRODUCTION: Have you ever needed the help of a lifeguard or seen a lifeguard responding to a cry for help?

Allow 5 – 7 minutes for this question.

OBSERVATION: Read Psalm 63:1-5

What benefits of seeking God do you see in the verses we just read? What do you think it took for the psalmist to know God the way he sought to know God?

No matter our history with lifeguards, we need to understand that like a faithful lifeguard, God is always watching over our lives. Even though we may have come to take His presence for granted, His care for us continues in the most selfless fashion. In the passage we just read, the psalmist speaks as someone who never wants to lose sight of or take for granted the presence and care of God. He even writes of the benefits that await those who earnestly seek the Lord.

Spend about 5 – 7 minutes on this question.

UNDERSTANDING: Can you describe a time in your life when you lived as though God were not present or available? What changed your perspective about God’s care and concern for you?

Almost all of us have experienced times in our lives when we lived with either the idea that God had no interest in our situation or felt that He was far away. But we see through this lesson that God is present and available. He cares deeply about us.

Spend about 10 minutes on this question.

APPLICATION: Where have I seen God's goodness displayed in my life? What step or steps do I need to take to show my gratitude to the Lord for His presence and care in my life?

Once we understand that God cares for us and is watching over us out of His greatness and goodness, we cannot help responding to Him with grateful hearts and a desire to be close to Him. That's when we'll want to take steps in our lives to show our gratitude and live a life of obedience to Him. You may be at a point in your life where you need to admit your need for God or you may need to ask the Lord to renew in you a hunger and thirst for Him in your life. You may need to take a step of obedience like following through with being baptized and/or becoming a member of the church. Whatever the step, don't put it off.

Spend about 10 minutes on this question.

WITNESS (15 min) – This is a time for us to focus outward on our ministry to the world.

- ❖ Share any praise reports from your FRAN list that you've been praying for.
- ❖ July 13th – New CoLABorate Classes begin. Which class are you taking?
- ❖ July 29th – Tim Hawkins Concert (tickets are \$15 at the bookstore)
- ❖ August 13th – Leadership Summit
- ❖ Don't stop... SERVE LIKE CRAZY, plan your Life Groups next serve event.
- ❖ Make Shared Ministry Assignments and then Fellowship together.

(Now is the time to welcome the children back into the group and let them share something about what they've learned. Have a brief time of prayer with the whole group before fellowship).