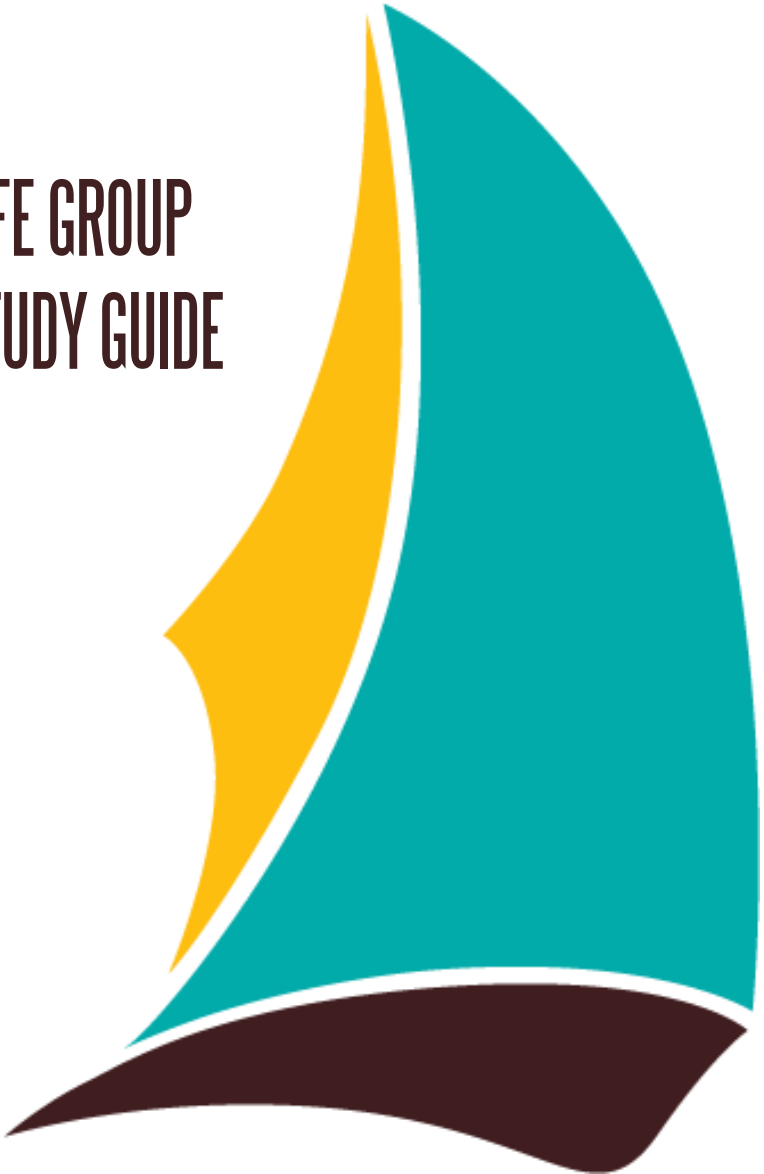


The logo for Christ Pacific Church, featuring a stylized teal wave or 'C' shape.

CHRIST PACIFIC CHURCH

LIFE GROUP
STUDY GUIDE



Setting Sail

Introduction

Welcome to the study that matches up with the sermon series, “Setting Sail.” This is not only the sermon series title but also the theme for 2019. We are exploring how God is leading us – as a church – into a promised future. Using the metaphor of Christ Pacific on an ocean adventure, the sermon series and study will explore: (1) the *wind* that moves the ship (God’s Spirit); (2) what it means to have *alignment* with the wind (spiritual transformation); (3) the *crew* (being a part of this church); and (4) the *mission* we have on this adventure of faith (discipleship). The writers for this study were Lucea Shipler, Stephen Grandy, and Dean Bobar.

We will be using the Know-Grow-Go framework for this study. Disciples are those who **know** Jesus as Lord and Savior, who **grow** together to become like Him, and who **go** on mission with Jesus. Keep this framework in mind as you go through each week’s questions. Each section helps us pursue these discipleship goals.

Wind (Ephesians 5:15-21)

4/28/19

In both the Old and New Testaments, the word for “Spirit/spirit” in the original languages can also mean “wind” or “breath.” If we as a church are on a sailing adventure together, then we need the “wind” of God’s Spirit to move us. In Ephesians 5:15-21, Paul teaches us about living lives characterized by wisdom and the filling of God’s Spirit. It is God’s Spirit that enables us to live rightly and wisely in this world.

KNOW



In the second half of Ephesians, Paul lays out a pathway (a “walk”) for followers of Jesus. Ephesians 5:15-21 stresses walking in a “wise” way. What is it about life that requires us “walk...as wise” (5:15-16)? How can Jesus’ followers avoid being “foolish” (5:15-17)? How do we discern what God’s “will” is?

In 5:18-21, Paul focuses on being “filled with the Spirit.” These words are a passive verb, meaning that is something that God does for us. However, there are certain actions that are to follow this work of God. What does it look like for Jesus’ followers to be “filled” with God’s Spirit (5:18-21)? What part do worship and gratitude play? What is the motivation for “submitting to one another”?

GROW



If we picture our life as a sailboat and the Spirit as the wind, we can see how God's Spirit wants to move us. Like wind to a sail, God's Spirit can empower and direct us. How do you desire to experience more of the Spirit's power and direction? How might Jesus be calling you to change the direction of your life to catch the wind of God's Spirit?

Many people have difficulty with the idea of "submitting" to others. The verb "submit" in Ephesians 5:18 is about *voluntarily* putting one's self under another's authority. How does this background change your understanding of Paul's teaching? How does this clarify or help you to understand how you are to submit to other followers of Jesus?

GO



In the Bible, God's Spirit often sends God's people to serve others. Take a few minutes to ask Jesus how He might be calling you to go and bless those around you. What risks and sacrifices would it take for you to honor this calling from God?

Alignment (Romans 12:1-2)

5/5/19

As we set sail as a church in 2019, it is important that we align ourselves with the movement of God's Spirit. This alignment requires both surrender and change. In this week's passage, Paul gives us a map for spiritual transformation into the image of Jesus.

KNOW



Paul encouraged Jewish and Gentile believers in Rome to respond to God's "mercies" with full devotion to Jesus. The language of "sacrifice" comes from the Old Testament teaching on worshipping God. What does it mean to offer our "bodies" as "a living sacrifice"? What is the difference between dead animal sacrifices and our "living" sacrifice? Why does Paul choose the word "body"? What exactly is sacrificed in our response?

By renewing our mind, we dedicate our thoughts and action to God's truth, which stands the test of time. The verb "testing" in Romans 12:2 has the sense of "recognize as genuine after examination." Why is it necessary to go through the process of "testing" to know God's "will"? How does God transform us as we surrender our lives to Him?

GROW



We can resist our culture's temptations by letting the Holy Spirit guide and shape us. How do we test and approve what God's will is? What resources can we use? How can we rely on other followers of Jesus to choose more wisely?

If you found yourself in a situation where you felt like you were compromising (e.g., watching a movie that might tempt you to do wrong), how would you respond?

GO



Spiritual transformation involves aligning our lives to the will of God for us. It is like aligning our sails to the direction of the wind of God's Spirit. What changes can you make to make your body a living sacrifice for the sake of others? How can you use your own unique gifts appropriately in your service to others?

Crew (Romans 12:1-8)

5/12/19

If we are on an adventure of faith together, then we can think of ourselves as coming together as a crew. In Romans 12:1-8, Paul teaches us about offering our “bodies” as living sacrifices (12:1-2) and our life together as the “one body of Christ” (12:3-8). Each one of us is a “member” of Christ’s body in the Church.

KNOW



Romans 12:1-2 focuses on offering our bodies as living sacrifices in response to God’s mercy and the transformation needed to do this. We are instructed to not conform to this world but be transformed by the renewal of our mind. How does the will of the world compare to God’s perfect will? How might Jesus’ followers need their minds renewed in order to surrender to God?

In Roman 12:3-8, Paul exhorts us to not think of ourselves more highly than we ought, but rather think of ourselves with sober judgement, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of us. What does it mean to you to view yourself in a sober judgement of faith? Why is this important when it comes to serving? What do you think Paul means when he says we are “members of one another”?

GROW



It is only because of God's grace that we are able to walk through life. How can you practice humility more in light of the spiritual gifts bestowed upon you? When challenged by humility, how can you grow by the renewing of your mind through faith and service?

Part of our corporate identity as Jesus' followers is that we are the "body of Christ." We belong not only to Christ but to one another. How does this identity help you to understand your part in the life of Christ Pacific Church? What is your sense of belonging and purpose in this congregation?

GO



As humans, we all sin. We may even try to set the bar too high for ourselves in life. How can you humble yourself enough to be of maximum service to others? What types of service fit best with your spiritual gifts? How can this be applied in and out of your Christian circles?

Mission (Matthew 28:16-20)

5/19/19

Most great adventures often involve a mission. In our adventure of faith as a church, we are seeking to make Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) *our* mission.

KNOW



In this week's passage, Jesus commissioned all His disciples. The Great Commission comes after Jesus' great announcement of His kingship in Matthew 28:18. What claim did Jesus make in this verse? If Jesus is the King of the world, then what kind of "authority" does He have?

The heart of the mission is to "make disciples of all nations." According to Matthew 28:19-20, what activities are involved in making disciples? What kind of community was Jesus founding from among "all nations"? What promise does Jesus make in Matthew 28:20 about His presence? What encouragement does this promise give you?

GROW



At the heart of following Jesus is observing all His commands. What do you know about the life that Jesus calls you to as one of His followers? How are you pursuing this life at Christ Pacific? In what ways would you like to be more intentional in your commitment to and service at church?

Christ Pacific Church's mission statement is "to cultivate a vibrant community of faith, hope, and love that follows Jesus into the world so our neighbors may also experience God's goodness." How do you see yourself as benefiting from such a community? Share about how you are contributing to this mission and how you desire to grow in this area.

GO



Disciples of Jesus are those who are being discipled and discipling others. To disciple is to help someone else follow Jesus. Consider one person in your life who does not yet know Jesus. How can you help them move closer to knowing Jesus? What risk of faith might this require of you?



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