



**HATFIELD  
CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH**

## **LIFE GROUP GUIDELINE TERM 3 WEEK 7**

**14 September 2017**

### **Community of the faithful**

‘And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.’

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

#### **Icebreaker**

With our Heritage Day celebration coming up, and with the weather playing its part, what is your favourite thing about a South African summer?

#### **Introduction**

Challenges are something that we all have to face in life. Sometimes these challenges can seem like daunting obstacles that are going to require a considerable effort to overcome. However, God’s Word reminds us of three essential truths:

- God is sovereign (Daniel 4:35),
- God is love (Exodus 34:6-7), and
- God will not allow us to face a challenge that is beyond our ability to overcome or endure (1 Corinthians 10:13).

#### **Discussion**

Read Acts 12:1-8 together. This is the story of Peter’s miraculous escape from prison. Let’s consider how God’s love and sovereignty helped Peter endure a challenging time.

- ***Our faith will be tested.*** Peter, and the disciples, had their faith tested. What is the best response of a faithful believer, and community, during challenging times?
- ***Our faith will require us to leave things behind.*** Peter left his chains behind. Is God asking you to leave something behind?

- ***Your faith will require you to listen and follow instructions.*** Peter readily followed the instructions of the angel; he exercised faith. Which is the biggest source of instruction in your life? A faithful community listens to God's voice, obeys His Word, and encourages each other accordingly.
- ***Your faith will require you to make room for the miraculous.*** Our sovereign God is also a powerful, miracle-working God – let us trust for miracles as we exercise our faith. What are some everyday miracles that we experience? Are you open for God to do something miraculous in your life?
- ***Your faith will require you to reach out and share.*** How has God been faithful to you during a tough time this week? Share with one another. Where do you spend most of your time? What are some of the ways you can reach out and share in the place you mentioned previously (e.g. in your workplace, family, university, etc.)? What holds you back from being a witness in these places?

### **Prayer**

- Take some time to share challenges that you are facing. Remember that a faithful community encourages each other!
- Trust God for the miraculous as you pray for each other's challenges. Is there a word of knowledge or a scripture that God has for you to share with someone?
- Pray that as a life group, you would become a community of faithful believers through the help of the Spirit.
- Pray for courage to be faithful witnesses in your families, places of work or study, and other spheres of influence.

### **Challenge**

This week, trust that your obstacles will become an opportunity for God to grow your faith in Him. Share with someone in the week ahead how God is moving through a challenge you're facing. Remember that even in tough times, God is sovereign and He loves you!