



**HATFIELD
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINE TERM 4 WEEK 8

7 December 2017

Faith to flourish: Excellence in holiness

‘God hasn’t invited us into a disorderly, unkempt life but into something holy and beautiful—as beautiful on the inside as the outside.’

1 Thessalonians 4:7b (MSG)

Note to leader:

This is the last life group for the year. While this life group guideline will involve some reflection on Sunday’s sermon, its main emphasis is on looking back over 2017 and celebrating the Lord’s goodness. You can choose to select a few questions and allow everyone to answer, or you can give each person a different question.

Icebreaker

What was one of your best moments in 2017?

What are you most looking forward to in the festive season?

If 2017 were a movie, what title would you give it?

Discussion

- Read John 17:13-21 and 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 and 11-12.
 - What stands out to you?
 - In light of these Scriptures and Sunday’s sermon, discuss the idea that as Christians we are called to be ‘in the world but not of the world’.
 - How does this challenge you personally?
- Who has been a good example to you in this year, demonstrating ‘excellence in holiness’?
- Can you think of a time during this year when holy living really cost you something? How did you stay encouraged and what helped you to stay on track?
- What was your greatest challenge in 2017, and what has been one of the greatest lessons you have learned this year?
- What Scriptures or songs do you feel the Lord has used to hold you steady this year?

- What aspect of God's character do you feel you've experienced most profoundly in 2017?
- Name three things you are most grateful for?
- Is there something you dream about or hope for in the future?

Prayer

- Pray for those who feel buffeted by some of the challenges they have faced this year. Minister to these people in small groups.
- Spend time thanking the Lord for the many blessings we've encountered in 2017. Allow people to voice their gratitude in prayer.
- Thank the Lord for His reassuring presence that is always with us (Matthew 28:20) and for the fact that nothing can separate us from His love (Romans 8:38-39).
- Pray for safety over the festive season, for unsaved family members and colleagues, and for less fortunate communities.

Challenge

How can your group be a blessing to underprivileged or vulnerable communities this festive season?