



LIES I BELIEVE: God Just Wants Me to Be Happy

Pastor Derek Sanford

January 2, 2022

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement:

Is there a lie that you used to believe, but you now know the truth? How did you find truth?

Scripture:

Read [John 8:42-47](#)

- Why were the Pharisees motivated to believe a lie rather than to look for the truth?
- How often do you just accept a lie as truth without thinking or without pursuing real truth?
- Why do you think the lie, “God just wants me to be happy” is so pervasive and easily believed?

Read [1 John 2:15-17](#)

- When we believe that God just wants us to be happy, what are the underlying lies we believe about ourselves [that our needs and desires are most important]? What are the lies we believe about God [that He exists to serve me and to meet my needs]?
- What kind of “happy” does the world entice us with?

Read [John 10:10](#)

- What is the “abundance” that Jesus brings to our lives?
- [Additional verses: Galatians 5:1, 13-14, 22-24; John 15:-17]

Prayer: Our desire to be “happy” only finds true satisfaction in God - through the work of His Son and through the power of His Spirit. *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights... (James 1:17)*. Everyone in the group has a desire, and generally a deep need is at the root. Spend some time sharing those desires, praying for the needs, and asking your Good Father to bring the abundant life in Jesus’ name.

Next Steps:

-Discuss how to say NO to temporal happiness and YES to abundant life.

-Follow the READ plan together on YouVersion!

Search “whoisgrace” and select “Lies I Believe part 2”

When prompted, choose to read “with friends.”

Leader, share the link to the plan with the members of your group.

When they click the link you share, they will be connected to you and others.



Lies I Believe: I Can Do It On My Own

Pastor Derek

January 9, 2022

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: Do you find it easy or hard to ask for or to accept help from others? Share an example of a time you were glad you decided to rely on someone else for help.

Scripture:

Read [John 15:4-5](#)

- Pastor Derek said that the job of a branch is painfully simple: stay connected to the vine. What does this passage imply if we try to do it on our own without the vine?
- What are the main reasons (good and bad) that you try to do certain things on your own?
- What would it look like for you to abide in God? What holds you back from doing that?

Read [Proverbs 3:5-8](#)

- In what areas of your life do you “lean on your own understanding”? How could you lean on God instead?
- How does leaning on God teach us how to lean on others for help as well?

Prayer: Practice asking for help and leaning on God by sharing prayer requests as a group. Consider having members take turns praying for the person to their left. Commit to praying for each other for the next week.

Next Steps:

Give Help: Was there a prayer request that your group could respond to with tangible help? (e.g. making meals, helping with a project, connecting someone to a mentor, etc.) If not, is there another need in your church/community that they could help with?

Receive Help: Encourage everyone in your group to ask someone for help once this week and report back next week on how it went.

Don't forget, you can follow the READ plan together on YouVersion through the whole sermon series.



LIES I BELIEVE: I'll Get to Heaven by Being a Good Person

Pastor Derek Sanford

January 16, 2022

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: Share with the group something that you are looking forward to in Heaven.

Scripture:

Read [Colossians 1:21-23](#)

- What is our status before we know Jesus? After Jesus? How does Jesus make this transformation possible?
- What feelings and thoughts cross your mind when you think about all that Jesus did?

Read [Romans 7:14:25](#)

- How does this passage describe our struggle with sin? How do you identify with what Paul is describing?
- In what ways has Jesus saved you from sin in the past? How is he currently transforming you?

Prayer: Take time to praise God for all that he has done for each of you. Use a “popcorn” prayer method. Keep prayers short (a sentence or just a word) and encourage everyone to participate. Even those who are nervous to pray out loud can feel confident praying this way.

Next Steps:

*“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.”
John 14:6*

Challenge one another to memorize Jesus’ words (try an app like “Verses” or make a lock screen for your phone) as a reminder that it is through Him you have abundant, eternal life.

Don't forget, you can follow the READ plan together on YouVersion through the whole sermon series.



LIES I BELIEVE: God Doesn't Like Me

Pastor Sarah Burttt

January 23, 2022

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: Has there been a time in your life when you were tempted to believe a form of this lie?
God doesn't like me because... If God really loved me then...
God doesn't love me because... I'm not worthy because...

Scripture:

**LifeGroup Leader- choose from the 3 life stories below and then discuss:*

Hagar- [Genesis 16:1-16](#); [Genesis 21:8-20](#)

David- [Psalm 22:1-31](#)

Peter- [Luke 22:54-62](#); [John 21:15-17](#)

- What lie(s) was this woman/man tempted to believe?
- What circumstances made the lie especially easy to believe?
- How does God's truth destroy the lie?
- In what area of your life do you need the truth of God's love to destroy lies?

Prayer: Use a worship song (e.g. Reckless Love) to provide a musical underscore to prayer time. Give each person time to write out their honest thoughts and feelings about their value. Once you sense people are mostly done writing, read [Ephesians 3:14-21](#) over everyone. Then allow for time to respond in prayer (out loud or in writing) to God's love.

Next Steps:

- Is there someone in your life experiencing pain, rejection, or heartache? How can you extend God's love to them today to make them feel seen and loved?

Don't forget, you can follow the READ plan together on YouVersion through the whole sermon series.



LIES I BELIEVE: God Won't Give Me More Than I Can Handle

Pastor Derek

January 30, 2022

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: Share an example of a time that you received unexpected help in a difficult situation and how that affected your perspective. The example could be really big, like a large financial gift, housing, or life-saving medical assistance, or it could be seemingly small, like a ride to the airport, a note of encouragement, or a prepared meal.

Scripture:

Read [1 Corinthians 10: 6-14](#)

- This week's sermon addressed the common lie that God won't give you more than you can handle and looked at the misapplication of this passage as one place it may originate. Have you ever fallen prey to this lie? Why do you think so many of us like this idea? How do you feel when your best efforts do not seem to 'work'?
- In context, what is the actual promise that God makes to believers? How is this different?
- Pastor Derek explored three reasons that God may occasionally allow more than you can handle. What were those? (He wants you to come back to Him; He wants to teach you to depend on Him; He wants to show His power through your weakness) Have you ever had more than you can handle and later realized you were learning one of these lessons?

Read [2 Corinthians 12: 7-10](#) and [2 Corinthians 4: 6-10](#).

- Where do your thoughts and emotions tend to go when you are in the middle of something that you know God could change, but He doesn't? How can Paul's response help during those times?

Prayer: Read [Psalm 139](#) out loud, and pause after every couple of verses to make space for people to lift up their own silent prayers.

Next Steps: Make a list of 1-3 weaknesses or challenges that often frustrate you. Spend some time this week talking with God about His purposes in them and asking Him for revelation on how He can be glorified through them.