



## Group Leader Guide - Lafayette Campus “Baptism Weekend” – Building Blocks October 26-27, 2019

### Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

### // Message Summary

This week Lafayette campus pastor, **Zack Weingartner**, continues our series **Building Blocks**. Zack is going to dive into our spirituality. Whether we are new believers or consider ourselves mature Christians, he will have practical applications on what the Bible tells us about how we should be living our lives. It is also baptism weekend! If someone in your group gets baptized, be sure to come alongside them, celebrate with them, and give them space to share their experience with you.



### // Biblical Context

**Matthew 28:16-20:** “The Great Commission” is the instruction that Jesus gave the 11 remaining disciples (remember Judas is no longer there at this point) that will set the foundation for the church. Verse 20 contains

two of the most powerful statements in the Bible regarding Christians – the first being, “Observe all that I have commanded you.” This is the command to stay in His word, to read our Bibles. The second is, “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” This is our assurance that God, the Creator of the universe, loves us and wants the best for us. **Romans 3:10-18** is, at first read, a tough passage to comprehend (almost depressing). This is why context is king. The Bible tells us just a few verses later that, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift.” Do not miss that; His grace is a gift.

**gift:** noun 1. A thing given willingly to someone without payment; a present.

### **The Greatest Commandment**

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” (**Matthew 22:37**) Such a simple yet powerful statement, especially given the previous text where we see that the Sadducees had posed a very confusing question about the law of marriage in regards to the death of a man’s brother. Not only is this the greatest commandment and the best way to live our lives, but it is also a very clear indication of Jesus’ comprehension level of the Scriptures for the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Jesus had more run-ins with the Pharisees because the Sadducees were, until the time of Jesus’s

ministry, content with the status quo. However, they did not want more Roman attention than was necessary.

Jesus goes on to give them the answer to a question that was not asked, “And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (**Matthew 22:39**) Can you imagine getting unsolicited advice from someone you are trying to get into trouble, especially since it is not going according to plan? Jesus no doubt addresses this because of the conditions that a large segment of the population is living in.

Jesus finishes up with, “On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (**Matthew 22:40**) This statement is important because of who the Pharisees and the Sadducees are. The Sadducees believed in a literal interpretation of the text of Scripture, whereas the Pharisees weighted oral tradition equal to the written word of God (written law & oral prophecy).

### // Living It Out

Zack gives some great ideas of how to put into action what God is doing in you. We all live in a very busy society that enables us to come up with a lot of different excuses and reasons why we can't take action. What we must do is move out of the way and really submit to the will of God, prioritize the Great Commission in our lives, and look for the opportunities to live it out. And PRAY. Intentionally carve time out of your day to read the Bible and open yourself to what God is calling you to do. I don't know where in your day you can fit this in, or where this would be most effective. For some, it will be early morning watching the sunrise; for others, it will be the last thing before bed when the kids are asleep, and the house is quiet. Challenge yourself to do this and watch how you start to see things differently.

### // Resource

<https://www.flatironschurch.com/sermon/bible-reading-plan/>

### // References

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Sadducees-Pharisees.html>



## Discussion Questions - Lafayette Campus “Baptism Weekend” – Building Blocks October 26-27, 2019

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### // Bible References

Matthew 28:16-20, Romans 3:10-18, Matthew 22:35-40

### // Community Questions

1. If anyone in your group was baptized, talk about it. Was it planned? Did they decide the day of? Did something happen in their heart during service that prompted their decision?
2. Discuss how things have been since they were baptized. Give them support and encouragement. Spiritual warfare often increases when a person has made a decision for the Kingdom of God.
3. Encourage other members of your group to share their baptism story as well

### // Core Questions

1. Read **Matthew 28:16-20**. This is what we know as the Great Commission – the marching orders that Jesus left for his followers. Which of these “marching orders” is the most difficult for you to participate in? Which of these are the most natural for you to engage in?
2. Read **Matthew 22:35-40**. What does it look like, in your everyday life, to love God and love others (if a video crew followed you around for a week, what would the recorded data show?)

### // Challenge

We all live in a very busy society that enables us to come up with a lot of different excuses and reasons why we can't take action. What we must do is move out of the way and really submit to the will of God, prioritize the Great Commission in our lives, and look for the opportunities to live it out.

Verbalize your plan to the group of how you intend to intentionally carve time out of your day to pray, read the Bible, and to open yourself to what God is calling you to do.