

BUILT TO LAST

RADIANT CHURCH



INTRODUCTION

PASTORS GREG & CONNIE

Our hearts are full seeing you live in biblical community. God has created us to live in relationship with Him and His people. We are never supposed to live life alone.

We are excited about this new series called “Built to Last”; a series about relationships. Whether you are married or single, God’s word will strengthen and enrich every relationship you have when we put His word into action within our lives.

We challenge you during the next 5 weeks and after, to drink deeply from God’s word, to encourage each other and to never give up but instead, fight the fight, finish the course and keep the faith until the day of our Lord returns for each of us.

Please let us know how to serve you and your families best as we all own our faith in a life changing way!

Much Love,

Greg & Connie

Pastors Greg & Connie

USING THIS WORKBOOK

TOOLS TO HELP YOU HAVE A GREAT LIFE GROUP EXPERIENCE!

1. Notice in the Table of Contents there are three sections: (1) Sessions; (2) Appendices; and (3) Life Group Leaders. Familiarize yourself with the Appendices. Some of them will be used in the sessions themselves.
2. If you are leading or co-leading a Life Group, the section Life Group Leaders will give you tips for effective leadership, encourage you, and help you avoid a few common obstacles.
3. Use this workbook as a guide, not a straitjacket. If the group responds to the lesson in an unexpected but honest way, go with that. If you think of a better question than the next one in the lesson, ask it. Take to heart the insights included in the Frequently Asked Questions pages and the Life Group Leaders section.
4. Enjoy your Life Group experience.
5. Pray before each session—for your group members, for your time together, for wisdom and insights.
6. Read the Outline for Each Session on the next pages so you understand how the sessions will flow.

OUTLINE OF EACH SESSION

A TYPICAL GROUP SESSION FOR THE BUILT TO LAST STUDY WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS. READ THROUGH THIS TO GET A CLEAR IDEA OF HOW EACH GROUP MEETING WILL BE STRUCTURED:

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSES

Each session opens with a Memory Verse that emphasizes an important truth from the session. This is an optional exercise, but we believe memorizing scripture is a powerful way to grow spiritually. We encourage you to give this important habit a try. The verses for each session are also listed in the appendix.

INTRODUCTION

Each lesson opens with a brief thought that will help you prepare for the session and get you thinking about that week's topic. Make it a practice to read these before the session. You may want to have the group read them aloud.

SHARE YOUR STORY

The foundation for spiritual growth is an intimate connection with God and His family. You build that connection by sharing your story with a few people who really know you and who earn your trust. This section includes some simple questions to get you talking—letting you share as much or as little of your story as you choose.

HEAR GOD'S STORY

In this section, you'll read the Bible and listen to teaching in order to hear God's story—and begin to see how His story aligns with yours. When the study directs you to, you'll watch a short teaching segment on video. You'll then have an opportunity to read a passage of scripture and discuss both the teaching and the text. The goal isn't to accumulate information, but to apply the insights from scripture to your daily life.

CREATE A NEW STORY

In this section, you'll have an opportunity to go beyond Bible study to biblical living. This section will also have a question or two that will challenge you to live out your faith by serving others, sharing your faith, or worshiping God.

FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

If you have time and want to dig deeper into more Bible passages about the topic, we've provided additional passages and questions. You can use them during the meeting or as homework. Your group may choose to read and prepare before each meeting in order to cover more biblical material. Or, group members can use the additional study section during the week after the meeting. If you prefer not to do study homework, this section will provide you with plenty to discuss within the group. These options allow individuals or the whole group to expand their study while still accommodating those who can't do homework or are new to your group.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Each week on the Daily Devotions pages, we provide scriptures to reflect on between sessions. This provides you with a chance to slow down, read just a small portion of scripture each day, and pray through it. You'll then have a chance to journal your response to what you've read. Use this section to seek God on your own throughout the week. This time at home should begin and end with prayer. Don't get in a hurry; take enough time to hear from God and talk to Him!



SESSION 2

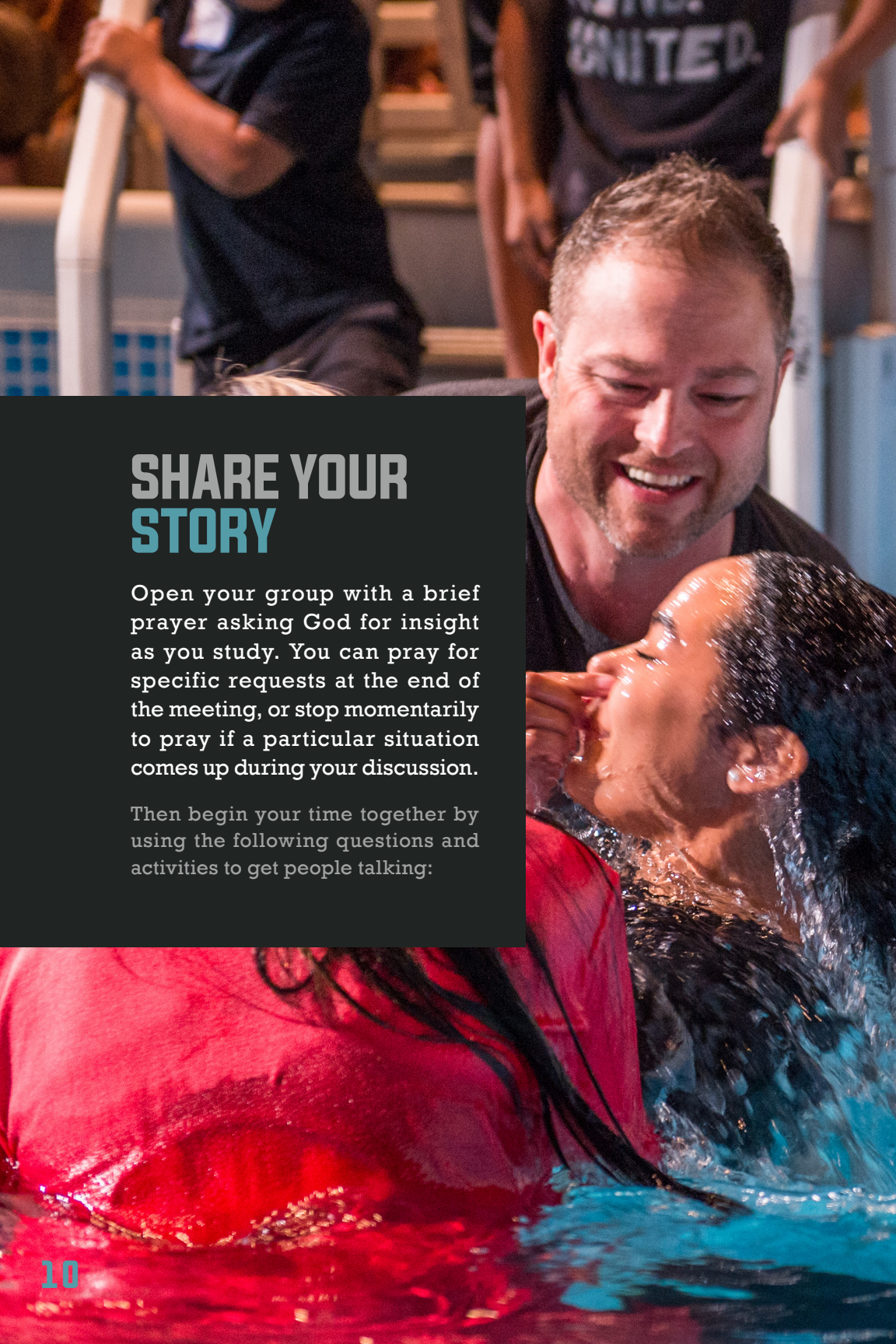
THE OFFENSE

BE COMPLETELY HUMBLE AND GENTLE; BE PATIENT,
BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE.
EPHESIANS 4:2

There is an entire website devoted to “passive aggressive notes” that real people have left for each other. The site features hundreds of handwritten and typed notes from parents to children, from one employee to her colleagues, or from one roommate to another.

“Never above 70 degrees, Donna,” says one anonymous note taped to the company’s air conditioner. “Bring a sweater.” Another one features a spreadsheet tracking each time the neighbor’s children scream while playing unsupervised in the back yard next door, with the length of each scream tracked to the second.

This website is great for a laugh, but leaving unsigned notes or creating databases of annoyances are not the best ways to deal with the offenses in our relationships. This week, we’ll discover how we can navigate conflict in ways that actually honor God and move our relationships forward.



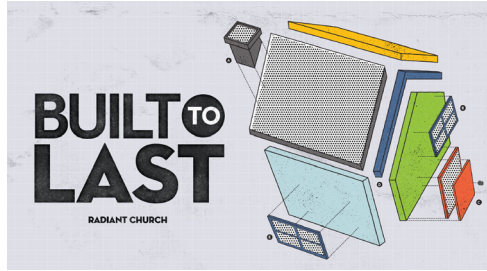
SHARE YOUR STORY

Open your group with a brief prayer asking God for insight as you study. You can pray for specific requests at the end of the meeting, or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

Then begin your time together by using the following questions and activities to get people talking:

1. Share a time when you successfully handled an offense in relationship with someone else. (And if you're brave, share a time when you didn't!)
2. What did you learn from your Daily Devotions this past week?
3. Take some time for each person to share about how they're doing on the challenge of inviting the people on the Circles of Life to church or your Life Group. What specific conversations are you praying about for the weeks to come?

WATCH THE VIDEO



Use the Notes space provided below to record your thoughts and questions as well as the things you want to remember or follow up on. After watching the video, have someone read the discussion questions in the Hear God's Story section and start the conversation.



HEAR GOD'S STORY

EPHESIANS 4:25-27, 29-32

²⁵Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for

the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³²Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

1. Which of the commands in this passage do you find most difficult to put into practice in your relationships?

2. What is a side benefit of building people up with our words (verse 29)?

3. What does it mean to forgive the way Christ forgave us?



CREATE A NEW STORY

In this section, talk about how you will apply the wisdom you've learned from the teaching and Bible study. Then think about practical steps you can take in the coming week to live out what you've learned.

1. Why is it good advice not to let the sun go down on our anger? How can you apply this to your life?

2. How does God deal with your offenses against Him? How should that affect the way we deal with the offenses of others?

3. What is one action step you want to take this week because of what you've learned today?

4. Each of you in the group has different gifts and abilities, and every Life Group has jobs that need to be done. How could you serve this group—perhaps with hospitality or prayer, by organizing an event, researching a topic, or by inviting new people?

5. Spend some time praying about those you know who might respond to a simple invitation: to come to a church service, to join your Life Group, or even to just have coffee and talk about spiritual matters. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind people you can pray for.

6. Groups grow closer when they serve together. How could your group serve someone in need? You may want to visit a shut-in from your church, provide a meal for a family who is going through difficulty, or give some other practical help to someone in need. If nothing comes to mind, spend some group time praying and asking God to show you who needs your help. Have two or three group members organize a serving project for the group, and then do it!



FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

Take some time between now and our next meeting to dig into God's Word. Explore the Bible passages related to this session's theme on your own. Jot down your reflections in a journal or in this study guide. You may even want to use a Bible website or app to look up commentary on these passages. If you like, share what you learn with the group the next time you meet.

READ COLOSSIANS 3:12-15

1. Of the character traits listed in verse 12, which one are you strongest in? Which is your biggest weakness?

2. How does love lead to unity?

3. Why do you think this passage ends with a reminder to be thankful?

READ MATTHEW 5:21-26

1. Why does Jesus teach so strongly on anger?

2. Why should we seek reconciliation with others before connecting with God?

3. How do small offenses escalate into larger conflicts?



DAY 1 • READ ROMANS 12:3

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

Reflect: How can having this perspective on ourselves change the way we approach conflict?

DAY 2 • READ PROVERBS 12:18

The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Reflect: Even in times of conflict, we have complete control over what we say and how we say it. Ask God to help you speak wisely, in ways that lead to resolution and healing, instead of piercing others recklessly.

DAY 3 • READ 1 JOHN 3:20

If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Reflect: Only God knows the full situation when you are dealing with an offense, and only He can change your heart. Ask for His help in dealing with anger in ways that will strengthen your relationships.

DAY 4 • ROMANS 12:18

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Reflect: We can't control what others do, but we can control what we do – and we can keep offenses from escalating more than they need to. Are there situations in which you need to change your attitude so you can live at peace?

DAY 5 • READ 1 PETER 4:8

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

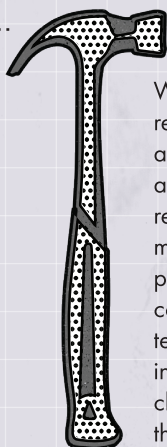
Reflect: We will not always love perfectly, but we are called to continue learning how to love. Ask for God's wisdom in loving the people close to you.

DAY 6

Use the following space to write any thoughts God has put in your heart and mind about the things we have looked at in this session and during your Daily Devotions time this week.

“Build friendships & marriages on the solid ground of His word.”

HOME sweet HOME



Whether we're single or married, young or old, we all have relationships that matter to us. In *Built to Last*, Pastor Greg and a team from Radiant Church share biblical teaching and practical insights that can help you develop healthy relationships with God and with others, build friendships and marriages on the solid ground of His word, manage conflict, pursue intimacy, and live with love. This five-week series combines video teaching from Pastor Greg, stories and testimonies from dozens of Radiant Church members, and an in-depth study guide to take your small group or Bible study class to the next level in growing and enjoying relationships that are built to last.

