
Next Week's Life Group: Culture of Worship

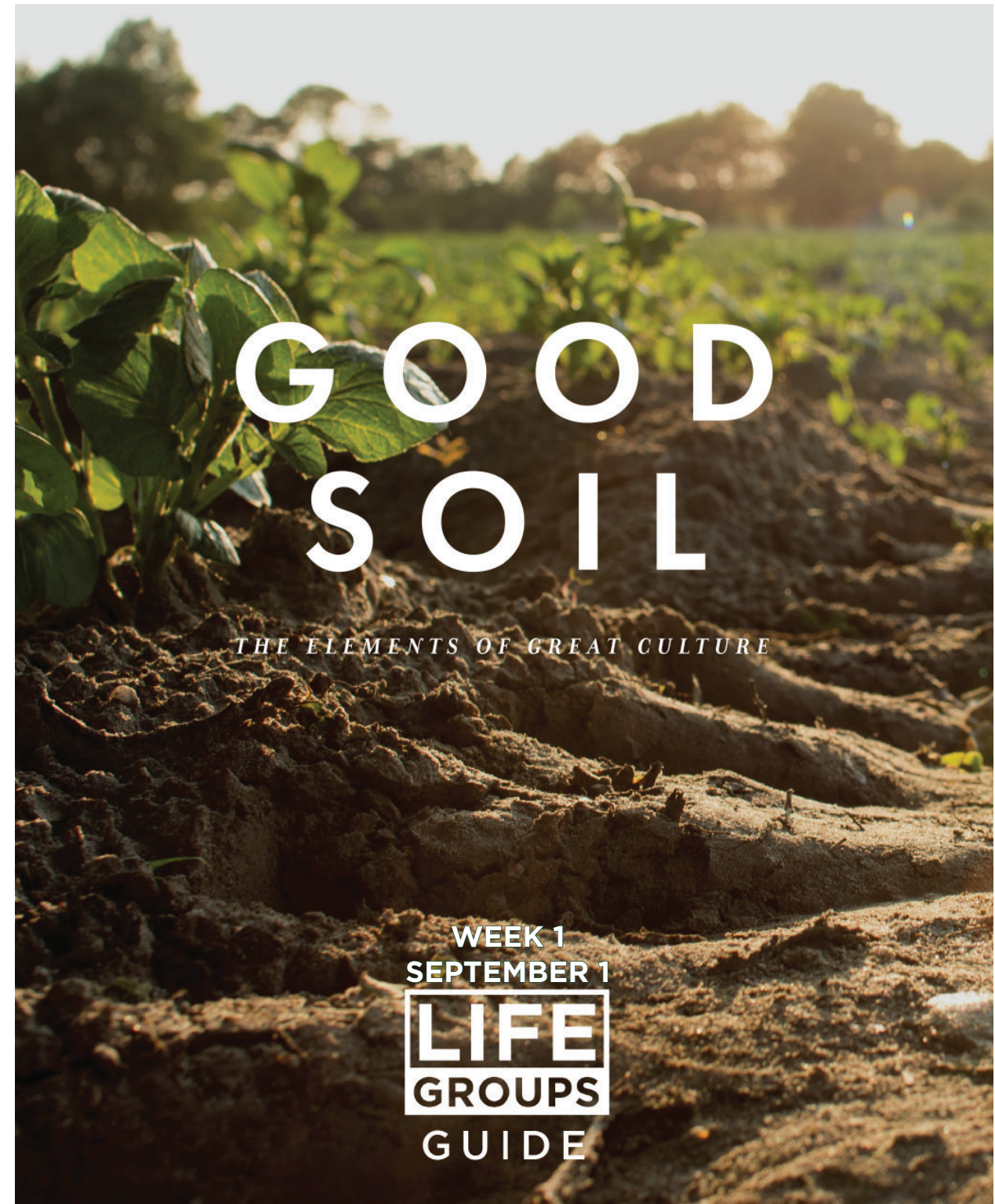
Next Week's Story: Psalm 103

Our Church's Definition of a Biblical Disciple of Jesus

A person who is committed to *following, being changed by,* and *on mission* with Jesus (taken from Matthew 4:19).

The Purpose of Life Groups

Life Groups are where we connect with God and with others through relationships - growing in spiritual maturity as biblical disciples of Jesus and inspiring a culture of discipleship as we do life together. Life Groups are loving, safe, and interactive places where people can be authentic and vulnerable as they explore, experience, serve, and grow in relationship with Jesus, the Word, and others. Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 3:12-13, 10:23-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11.



GOOD SOIL

*Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain,
some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*

Matthew 13:23a

GETTING STARTED

If you had to give a TED talk, what would be the topic?

STORY BACKGROUND

The book entitled “The Acts of the Apostles” chronicles the story of the birth of the Church of Jesus Christ and its influence in Jerusalem, Judea, and throughout the Near East in the seasons following Jesus’ death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. As the gift of the Holy Spirit fell, indwelt, and filled the early Christians with power and love, a community of passionate and committed followers naturally formed. As with any community of people being joined together by a common pursuit, a culture developed. In those early days, they became known in Jerusalem for their commitment to

- following and practicing the way of Jesus by adhering to the apostles teaching (v. 42)
- experiencing signs and wonders (v. 43)
- radical generosity (v. 45)
- regular acts of breaking bread in homes and steadfast, faith-filled prayer (v. 42)
- worshiping together (v. 47)

As the gospel spread to different cities and groups, the culture of the Church remained the same and when it waivered, God sent apostles to remind them where they had strayed. Culture in the church is like soil that needs to be tended so that when the seed of the gospel comes in it produces lasting and community-impacting fruit.

CULTIVATING OUR CULTURE



STORY: Acts 2:42-47 (Read aloud)

MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 13:23a - *As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it.*



HEAD LEVEL: These questions help us to examine what the Word tells us.

- What does this passage tell us about the believers of the early church? What action words describe what the believers were doing?
- What was the result of the believers’ commitment to this type of culture? What did God do? (See verse 47.)



HEART LEVEL: These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- When you think of the phrase “kingdom culture”, what comes to mind, and why?
- What does the church need in order to have a healthy, kingdom-focused culture?



HANDS LEVEL: These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

- Pray together. Ask God what area of the Kingdom He is calling you to step into this season.