



# Life Groups 2018

NLC Life Group Study

Week of November 11, 2018  
GUARD RAILS TO OUR FAITH

# Life Group Schedule

**15 MIN**     Eat, Meet & Greet

**15 MIN**     Ice Breaker: **High/Low**. This is a good warm-up for groups who are familiar. Instructions: Each member simply shares their high (best moment) and their low (not-so-best moment) for the week.

**TRANSITION: AS YOU'RE GATHERING, SPEND A FEW MINUTES IN WORSHIP & PRAYER. SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS FOR THIS WEEK:**

- "You Hold All Things Together."
- "God Is So Good."

## **OPENING PRAYER**

### **45–60 MIN | GUARD RAILS TO OUR FAITH**

- God reminds us over and over in His Word to care for the orphans.

**SEE ISAIAH 1:17; JAMES 1:27**

- In this verse, the evidence of our faith is a strong plea to care for orphans and widows.
- As Syrian refugees crossed into Lebanon, families were separated. Kids had absolutely nothing and were scrambling for food.
- Locally, foster children are like refugees, and Arkansas is at the bottom of care for Foster kids.

**Q1.** Have you ever been rescued—maybe out of a hopeless situation with no way out—and someone came just in time to save you?

- There are over 2000 scriptures in the Bible about the poor, the lost, orphans, and widows.

**SEE MATTHEW 13:45-46**

- Many that Jesus ministered to didn't feel treasured at all—physically disabled, demonized, sinful, murderers, adultery, neglect. He still went after them like a pearl of great price.
  - › It's magnetizing to feel valued by God.
- American's TOP FEAR is no longer Death or Public Speaking, but REJECTION.
  - › They're worried that no one will love them...they won't get the job...fear of divorce...won't have any friends. What about being an orphan?

- › The foster care system is not full of orphans, but children who often have parents. Yet something has disrupted their home.

**SEE PSALM 82:3-4**

- When we don't rescue, we are not dropping the ball. We are dropping a person! A kid with a name, a purpose, and a destiny!
- There are 200 million orphans in the world, and 400,000 Foster children in America.

**SEE EPH 1:4-5**

- We have all been adopted! The Bible is a big rescue story about adoption—about God loving us and adopting us as His own children. We were all lost, all adopted, all rescued.

**SEE COLOSSIANS 1:13, GALATIANS 1:4, GALATIANS 4:4-6; PSALM 68:67**

#### **KEY ARKANSAS STATS**

- › 5,113 kids in foster care.
- › 701 kids available for adoption.
- › 120,000 open DCFS cases where the child is never removed from the home but the home has significant needs.

#### **HOW TO GET INVOLVED**

- Adopt
- Foster
- Support those who Foster. Half of foster homes close within one year, because foster parents need support. How do you support those who foster in a practical way?
  - › Meet needs through Care Portal: DCFS enters a need. Church point person receives the need Point person sends need to everyone signed up. Someone steps up to meet the need and make the connection.
- Text FOSTER to 88000
- Attend the interest meeting:
  - › GLR: Sunday, Nov. 18, 11:15am in the Family Room
  - › CWY: Monday, Nov. 26, 6:30pm in Kid Life

**Q2.** How can our life group be part of the solution and make a real impact in Arkansas?