

# *illumine*

Community Group  
*Workbook*



Thinking the thoughts  
of *Jesus* over your life.

## THINKING THE THOUGHTS OF JESUS OVER YOUR LIFE.

Jesus walked out his purpose here on earth to deliver us from sin and reconcile us to God. His life points us to experience unity with the Father, confidence in our identity, and a life lived in service to others. Thinking the thoughts of Jesus over our lives means looking at how Jesus lived, noticing the ways he loved and served, and allowing that to shape our own thoughts and behaviors.

As we spend time together in the Word of God, we are invited a beautiful picture of how the Holy Spirit wants to work in us. Our minds and hearts are like gardens. We either plant seeds of truth or seeds of deception. We are given tools throughout Scripture to use as we tend, water, prune, and grow the proverbial gardens of our souls.

Jesus says in John 15:3-5, "Abide in me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit." Everything we need, everything we long for, is found in him.

As we take the next six weeks to dig deeper into unity with God, identity in Christ, and our divine purpose, let's believe for even greater revelation and connection with the Lord and one another.

## TIPS FOR GROUP LEADERS

Thank you for leading this Illume Community Group! Here are a few helpful tips as you prepare to gather:

- Pray! Take time before each meeting and pray for every woman by name. Pray that God would do a deep work in everyone participating.
- Confirm details with everyone attending. Make sure the time, date, and location, as well as the host's contact information, is clear.
- Make the space comfortable. Consider some light refreshments, even name tags, for the first few meetings to help women feel at ease.
- Use the materials provided. Make sure everyone has a workbook. Decide how you will play the intro videos and test ahead of time.
- Make a plan for the kids. Decide ahead of time if kids will participate or consider hiring a group babysitter.
- Encourage everyone to engage and participate. It is okay if someone doesn't want to share but do your best to involve everyone.

## GROUP MEETING 1

# Union with *God*

*Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

John 15:4-5

### KEY THOUGHT

I am designed for union with God. When I abide in him, I am in my natural environment.

### DISCUSSION

1. Before you step into the content for this first meeting, take some time and get to know one another. Take 1-2 minutes for each woman to share her favorite food and her favorite hobby.
2. In John 15, Jesus repeatedly tells us to *abide*. What was his purpose in reiterating this so many times?

Discuss what *abiding in God* looks like for you. Give specific ways you choose each day to abide. Share two or three things that distract you from abiding in God.

3. Read Genesis 1:26-27 and 2:7. According to these verses, each one of us is created in God's image and after likeness. This means that our identity is not found in outward appearance or our capacity to produce. Our beauty and our worth are rooted in our Creator.

How would internalizing this truth impact every area of your life, including relationships, decisions, self-talk, and even your hopes and dreams? Discuss the positive changes that would occur as you embrace this truth.

### APPLICATION

With your group, take the time and speak these biblical truths over one another:

*My beauty and my worth are rooted in my Creator.*

*I am designed for union with God.*

*Union with God is my highest priority.*

Discuss practical ways to make more daily time for union with God. This means time reading and meditating on Scripture, praying for yours and others' needs, and worshipping God.

## GROUP MEETING 2

# *Abide* in Him

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

Psalm 23:1

### KEY THOUGHT

Being with God must precede doing for God. Fruitfulness only comes from abiding in him.

### DISCUSSION

1. As followers of Jesus, we can find ourselves trapped in a cycle of *doing* to please God and others. Often, we are afraid of failing, feeling useless or disappointing God. Today, God is inviting all of us to learn a better way.

Read Psalm 23:1-3. In what areas of your life have you allowed Jesus to be your Shepherd? In what areas do you resist him? What practical changes would allow you to follow his lead into green pastures and still waters? Talk about what the phrase *restore my soul* means personally to you right now, in this current season.

2. Which describes your perspective of abiding in God?

God then me: God begins his work in me. He gives me a new heart and a new spirit, but then it's up to me to get busy living a transformed life.

God not me: God does everything. My posture is to let go and let God. If he wants change or growth in my life, He will accomplish it.

God plus me: God and I work side-by-side. It's a 50/50 split or collaboration. He does his part and I do mine.

God in me: God is the author and finisher of my faith, and with his Holy Spirit living in me I am united to Jesus spiritually. Therefore, I live in him and respond to him, because he abides in me and I abide in him.

### APPLICATION

We have learned together that the God in me perspective is what Jesus talked about in John chapter 15. Everything in life flows from our abiding in him. Using the list above, what unhealthy mindsets or false beliefs do you need to turn from today? Take turns confessing, then pray prayers of repentance and faith. This means turning away from the old and turning towards the new.

Conclude in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to increase each person's understanding of union with God. Thank him for the work of transformation he is doing in your lives!

### GROUP MEETING 3

# Life *Abundant*

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

John 10:10

#### KEY THOUGHT

Abundant life is God's heart for me. Everything that I need and long for is found in him.

#### DISCUSSION

1. So often we turn to other sources for satisfaction. Things like tv, sex, food, social media, and relationships. But our ultimate satisfaction is found in Jesus. Identify where you are prone to finding your satisfaction or worth apart from him. What do you turn to instead of Christ? Share one or two with the group.
2. Abundant life means that what Jesus gives us doesn't stop at the forgiveness of our sins. He forgives us but also invites us into a vibrant, growing, active relationship with him, right now! What are some ways he is inviting you into a greater connection and satisfaction in him?
3. Romans 8:38-39 tells us, "I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor

anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

As you meditate on this verse, remind your soul that because you cannot be separated from him, everything you need is satisfied in him. What feelings stir in your heart as you settle into that truth? How does that shift your perspective of how Jesus feels toward you?

#### APPLICATION

Reflect on your responses to questions one and two. Take some time to pray and confess any ways that you have turned to other things instead of Christ. Reaffirm your trust in him. Allow your heart to fully receive the truth that he is for you, with you, and that he is enough for you. Discuss one or two practical ways that you can reorder your affections this week.

*Practical example: Intentionally take five to ten minutes each day that you would normally spend on a screen and spend it searching the Word for the promises of God. Write down what you find and speak those truths over yourself.*

GROUP MEETING 4

# True Identity

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away, behold the new has come.*

2 Corinthians 5:17

KEY THOUGHT

I am invited into my true identity in Christ; I am not defined by my past sins or experiences.

DISCUSSION

1. To be secure in our identity, we must first believe that God is who he says he is. Discuss times where it has been difficult for you to trust in the goodness of God. Talk about how you can bring those feelings to God.
2. It can be so easy to accept lies about our identity. Our culture, past wounds and relationships, and fears, all play a role in shaping us. Identify some lies you have believed about your own identity. Share one or two with your group.

APPLICATION

There is such power in confessing the truth of Scripture over yourself. Consider your responses to questions one and two. Take some time with your group and use the

prompts below to guide your discussion. Pray the truth of Scripture over one another. Replace the lies you have believed with the truth of God's Word.

I renounce the lie that I am rejected, unloved, or shameful. In Christ I am accepted.

I renounce the lie that I am worthless, inadequate, helpless, or hopeless. In Christ I am significant.

I renounce the lie that I am guilty, unprotected, alone, or abandoned. In Christ I am secure.

1. I am God's child (John 1:12).
2. I am Christ's friend (John 15:15).
3. I have been justified (Romans 5:1).
4. I am united with the Lord, and I am one spirit with him (1 Corinthians 6:17).
5. I have been bought with a price: I belong to God (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).
6. I am a member of Christ's Body (1 Corinthians 12:27).
7. I am a saint, a holy one (Ephesians 1:1).
8. I have been adopted as God's child (Ephesians 1:5).
9. I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:18).
10. I have been forgiven of all my sins (Colossians 1:14).
11. I am complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10).
12. I am free from condemnation (Romans 8:1-2).
13. I am assured that all things work together for good (Romans 8:28).

14. I am free from all condemning charges against me (Romans 8:31-34).
15. I cannot be separated from the love of God (see Romans 8:35-39)
16. I have been established, anointed, and sealed by God (2 Corinthians 1:21-22).
17. I am confident that the good work God has begun in me will be perfected (Philippians 1:6).
18. I am a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20).
19. I am hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3).
20. I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control (2 Timothy 1:7).
21. I can find grace and mercy to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16).
22. I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me (1 John 5:18).
23. I am the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-14).
24. I am a branch of the true vine, Jesus, a channel of His life (John 15:1-5).
25. I have been chosen and appointed by God to bear fruit (John 15:16).
26. I am a personal, Spirit-empowered witness of Christ (Acts 1:8.)
27. I am a temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16).
28. I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).
29. I am a fellow worker with God (2 Corinthians 6:1).

30. I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 2:6).
31. I am God's workmanship, created for good works (Ephesians 2:10).
32. I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Ephesians 3:12).
33. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me! (Philippians 4:13).
34. I am not the great "I Am," but by the grace of God I am what I am (Exodus 3:14; John 8:24, 28, 58; 1 Corinthians 15:10).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ficm.org/ministry-materials/free-resources/>

GROUP MEETING 5

# God's *Purpose* for *Me*

*We will not boast about things done outside our area of authority. We will boast only about what has happened within the boundaries of the work God has given us...*

2 Corinthians 10:13

## KEY THOUGHT

My true purpose is not found in what I do. My true purpose is found in how God has uniquely created me.

## DISCUSSION

1. We are each created with unique gifts and abilities. Our differences are meant to be celebrated! Discuss how God has uniquely gifted and wired you. God is inviting you to use those gifts in this community and beyond.
2. It can be easy to get caught up in comparison, or competing with someone else, thinking that their gifts or abilities are better or more valuable than yours. When have you felt this way? Think of an example where you compared yourself to someone else. Share this with the group.

3. How can you resist comparison? For example: When you notice yourself feeling jealous of someone else's abilities or strengths, rather than dwelling on thoughts of envy or comparison, remind yourself of some of the unique things God has put in you!

## APPLICATION

God invites you into a place of loving the unique ways that he has made you. As you learn to embrace how you are wired, it expands your love for him and for others. Take some time and share observations of gifts or talents that you see in the other women in your group. Allow the affirmation of one another to draw you close to each other and point you to God's deep love for you.



GROUP MEETING 6

# Serve Like *Jesus*

*And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.*

John 13:14-15

## KEY THOUGHT

My purpose is directly tied to serving others.

## DISCUSSION

1. Jesus has given us a clear example of how we are to live in service to others. Our personal fulfillment is directly tied to serving those around us. As we read the full account in John 13, we see that Jesus washed all the disciple's feet, even Judas! Sometimes we are called to serve people that have wronged us or hurt us. Think of a time where this was true for you. How did that make you feel? Share with the group.
2. God will regularly use the ways we serve others to expose areas of weakness or sin in our own hearts. Serving others is often God's conduit to making us more like himself. This means setting aside what we want for what God asks. As I do this, Christ is formed *in* me. As I serve others, Christ moves *through* me. Discuss

a time when this was true in your life. How has your character been refined through serving others?

3. We know that Jesus wrestled with his own will in the Garden of Gethsemane. Just before he was to be taken to be crucified, he says to the Father, "Not My will, but Yours be done" (Luke 22:42). There was a surrender that took place in his heart before he made the ultimate sacrifice for mankind. What places in your heart do you need to surrender your will? What areas do you need to release what you want, so that you can walk in all that God has for you? Take a few minutes to reflect and write a few of these down.

## APPLICATION

Take some time to share with one another your responses to question three. Pray and agree for a heart to serve. Ask the Lord for a burden to serve others, and through that, a greater understanding of who he is and who you are. Come up with 2-3 practical ways you can serve someone this week and share them with one another.

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