

## This is Aldergrove: Week #2

October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

1 Samuel 7:7-14 Jeremiah 29:4-7 1 Peter 4:8-10



### Begin with Prayer

In silence, invite the Holy Spirit to guide you. Then pray: *Empowering God, we pray that you will send your Holy Spirit to move us to understanding; to help us to believe the gospel; to give us strength and wisdom to live by it. Amen. (Worship Sourcebook Q.3.5.8)*

### Reconnecting and Debriefing

Take a moment to check in with one another.

1. What do you find a meaningful way to celebrate someone or something? For example, special food, inviting people, hosting an event, taking time to reminisce, etc.?

#### Introduction

Whether we gather in person or online, our goal remains the same: to be a people apprenticed to the life of Jesus. His life and teaching is our example and our source of truth. Remember the commitments we make to each other to foster safety and freedom as we pursue spiritual growth together:

- Whenever possible, please listen to the sermon prior to gathering (Sunday or online).
- While we are meeting (even online), commit to focussing rather than multitasking. Be all here.
- Give every person an equal opportunity to share, even if it takes time to form or finish their thoughts.
- Be respectful and non-judgmental.
- Honour sharing boundaries (only what you have permission to share, no gossip) and guard confidentiality (what we share here stays here).
- Don't try to fix, problem-solve or rescue; keep pointing one another to the truths of the gospel for our lives.

### Listening to God's Word

We are one year old! The Aldergrove Campus officially launched on Thanksgiving Sunday, 2022, and we have set aside October 1<sup>st</sup> and October 8<sup>th</sup> to 'remember and celebrate' all the ways God has blessed us. Over the last 12 months, our volunteers and staff have worked hard, the renovations have nearly finished, our programs were planned and launched, and God was in the midst of it all. As we continue to 'raise our Ebenezer,' we are reminded that we are here because God has brought us this far.

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### Small Group Discussion

- **Read 1 Samuel 7:7-14.** After a decisive victory, Samuel 'raised an Ebenezer,' which was simply a pile of stones to remind everyone what God had done. *Why is it important to remember? What is the danger of forgetting what God has done?*
- *What stories have stuck out to you as we have looked back on this past year at Aldergrove? What would an 'Ebenezer' look like for you and your group this week?*
- **Read Jeremiah 29:4-7.** Jeremiah encouraged the exiled Jewish people to 'seek the peace and prosperity of the city,' even though Babylon was their enemy. *Do you ever feel like the world in which you live is your 'enemy'?*
- *How challenging would it be for you to 'seek the peace' of an enemy?*

- As a campus, we want to live lives that Impact Aldergrove for Jesus. *Take a moment to reflect on where each member of your group lives, works, and plays. Where has God placed you? What are some concrete examples of how you as individuals or as a group could 'seek the peace and prosperity' of the people at those places?*
- **Read 1 Peter 4:8-10.** Peter here encourages the church towards living in love, extending hospitality, and using gifts. *When have you been the recipient of 'deep love'? How difficult is it for you to 'love each other deeply'?*
- As a campus, we want to be people growing in the use of our gifts. *When do you most enjoy using your gifts? How have you been growing in your gifts this past year? What would it look like to continue to grow?*
- Your group might still be forming relationships, which is great! In that case, *what simple things have you appreciated about other people in your group so far?*
- *If your group knows each other, take some time as a group to encourage each other. How have you been blessed by each other? By people in our church?*
- ***How do you sense the Holy Spirit calling you to respond to or act on what we have read and discussed?***

## Practices – Prayer & Prosperity

In Jeremiah 29, the prophet encouraged the people to 'pray to the Lord' for the city in which they lived. Reflecting on where you live, work, and play, take some time to pray. Pray specifically for the contexts of each other's lives. Then, take a moment to allow the Holy Spirit to speak.

In response to your time of prayer, where can you or your group 'seek the prosperity' of one person or place this week? It might be meeting a concrete need of someone who is on the brink of despair, but don't limit yourselves to only responding to a crisis. Also consider how you could do something to encourage, bless, or serve someone else outside of your group. It might be as simple as writing a note, bringing someone a coffee, giving some baking, taking a moment to intentionally chat, sending a text, inviting someone to go on a hike, or doing some yardwork. Whatever it is, look for a small way to bless someone outside of your group this week!

**NOTE:** Our campus is collecting candy to give away on Halloween, so please consider picking up some candy as a group to partner with that event as well!

## Caring for One Another

- ***Do you or your family have a need that the Life Group can help meet?***

Using **the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)** as a guide, based on what you've shared together, spend time listening to God and praying for one another.