

## John #1: Believe and Find Life John 20:30-31

**Objectives:** At the end of this study we want them to think about Jesus's offer of life in relationship and get a sense that the Bible is written so that they would know and believe Him. We want the student to respond by thinking of their own life and how they could know/believe/and experience life in Christ in college.

**Time:** About 30 minutes of getting to know you and 30 minutes of discussion.

### Welcome Everyone

Using your own words, please welcome everyone to the Life Group, introduce yourself and an overview of the night. It may be helpful to mention that a big part of tonight is getting to know each other, that you will still be getting into the Bible, and that in weeks to come the Bible study portion will be a larger part of each Life Group.

### Getting to Know You (25 minutes)

This is a key event for today. Come up with a fun, interactive icebreaker that helps people get to know one another. Try something active. Shared experiences help bond us together!

**\*\*For some helpful icebreaker suggestions check out this website:**

<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/help-others-grow/leading-small-groups/small-group-icebreakers.html>

**Vision (3 minutes)-** Please use your own words... This is your chance to communicate your goal for Life Group.

Example: *"Our desire for this group is to get to know one another so that we could help one another know Christ more and become more like Him. We want to share our lives with one another, discuss how the Bible applies to our lives, and pray for one another to live out Christ's love in our relationships. As we experience Christ, we want to share that with others. We're so glad you're here!"*

**Make sure to pass around sheet for name, room #, phone and email.**

### Launch

"One of the great things about college is the diversity of people you get to interact with." If you asked a random student at MSU the following question, what do you think they would say?

**"Do you think God desires something for your life or offers something specific for you? If yes, what do you think He offers?"**

*"Tonight we are going to look at a short passage in the book of John where John explains his view on this. John was a close friend and follower of Jesus who also recorded his teachings."*

### Explore

#### Read John 20:30-31

"Let's first make some observations about what John is saying about Jesus"

- **What does John say about Jesus in these two verses?** (*He's the Son of God -did miraculous things seen by the disciples, recorded in John and many not recorded -by believing in his name we may have life*)
- **What feelings, thoughts, or questions came to mind for you as we read the verses or shared our observations of Jesus?** (*Ex: Wow, Jesus did so many miracles! What does John mean by "life?"*.)

#### Read John 20:30-31 (again)

"Now let's make some observations about what this says about the author & the book."

- **What do these two verses tell us about John and his book (the book of John)?** (*-he saw the miraculous things -chose to record some and not others -He wrote his book "John" so that people may believe and have life in Jesus's name*)
- **What feelings, thoughts, or questions came to mind for you as we read the verses again and shared our thoughts about John/the book of John?**
- **John said he wrote his book so that others would believe and have life in Jesus's name. What do you think that life looks like or is?** (*try to have everyone share, but not for it to become a*

*debate) Tonight we won't have a specific answer.*

**Apply-** Please use your own words...

*"Just so you know...We want this Life Group to be a place where we can have honest interactions with one another and also with what God wants to say to us from His Word, the Bible. As we talk each week we also want to provide space to consider how it looks to respond to the passage in our own lives."*

- Let's go back to our original question: **"Do you think God desires something for your life or offers something specific for you?** How would you answer this question based on what we looked at tonight?

**What does God desire for every student at MSU? How do they receive it?**

*"This group is for anyone, people who believe in Jesus and for those that don't and everywhere in between. Everyone's perspective on God and personal journey is welcome here. This is a safe place where we can all take a step together!" The next question is a way to do that:*

- **Which area would you like grow in this semester?** Raise your hand for one or more areas that fit your thoughts. Everyone is in a process of growth. **(LG leader, make sure you raise your hand too, for one or more areas)**

1) Getting to know who Jesus is more - what He did and who he was

2) Getting answers to questions I have and wrestling with reasons that make it difficult for me to believe

3) Experiencing the life found in Jesus in a deeper and more regular way

*"In our Life Group we want to help us all to grow in these areas. Thanks for sharing!"*

- **Close in prayer:** Invite personal prayer requests, LG leader(s) pray for any requests and for whole group to close.
- *Our goal in Cru is to help all students know and experience Jesus as He is presented in the Bible. For the rest of*

*the semester we are going to look at the gospel of John. John told us why he wrote his book in our passage tonight. We're excited to go deeper in the Bible in weeks to come, get to know you better, and any friends that you bring!*

### **Announcements (5 minutes)**

- Pass out note cards or contact sheet for phone numbers and dorm if you didn't already
- Explain what Real Life is and invite them. Give an invite card and tell them friends are welcome
- Invite to Fall BBQ
- Make lunch or coffee appointments with people to get to know them