

LIFE GROUP GUIDE FOR SEPTEMBER 2, 2018

1. Begin with this prayer:

Creator God: Our lives are made in your image, so we offer all the work of our hearts and hands and minds to you. We ask your blessing on those whose work is paid, those whose work is volunteer, those who seek work but have not found it and those whose work is not yet what it could be. Stay with all of us, that our efforts may fulfill your will for us and for your creation. To you be the glory, AMEN.

2. Leslie talked about being a first child. Have you been aware of the traits Leslie describes in the first children you know? (The book *Family Constellation* suggests that if there is 6 or more years between children, the birth order starts over!) Do the first children you know tend to be leaders? Do they tend to be bossy?
3. Take the time to go around your circle and have each person identify his/her sibling placement and briefly describe how each believes that has impacted his/her personality and journey.
4. What does “the first shall be last, and the last shall be first” say to you? Do you believe it to be true?
5. Were you brought up in a “works righteousness” environment or did you feel surrounded by grace as you were growing up?
6. Regardless of Methodist theology, do you function as one who must earn his/her salvation or as one who knows salvation is an unmerited gift?
7. Do you believe there is unforgiveable sin? If so, what is it?
8. What do you see as the goal of the work (paid or unpaid) you do?
9. Commit to finding an opportunity this coming week to extend unmerited grace, large or small, to someone who will not expect it from you!
10. Next Sunday will be the start of a new sermon series – plan to join us!
11. Close with the following prayer:

Gracious God: We give you hearty thanks for the rest of the past night and for the gift of a new day, with its opportunities of pleasing you. Grant that we may so pass its hours in the perfect freedom of you service, that at eventide we may again give thanks unto you. AMEN.