

ONE

LIFE GROUP
FACILITATOR GUIDE




WEEK 2

Romans 12:1-8 // One Strategy: ONE - Week 2

// Week 2 // Main Emphasis: Newbreak's Strategy

Welcome to week 2 of our church-wide study, ONE. Last week, we began exploring Newbreak's Vision Frame by looking at our mission: connecting people with God through authentic relationships to serve communities. This week, we will learn about the strategy for engaging others into the mission of Newbreak. Our unified strategy has three parts:

STRATEGY

-  *Begin the week in worship*
-  *Belong together in life groups*
-  *Be the church by serving*



As one body of believers united together, we will focus on what God has for us corporately as a church and how we all have a role to engage this strategy in our individual lives.

// Opening Prayer // 5 minutes

FACILITATOR NOTE: Open this week by praying for God to open the eyes and hearts of the members in our group as we begin to really look at the strategy by which we can accomplish the mission has called us to at Newbreak.

// Lean In // 5 minutes

Reflect on the mission of Newbreak we discussed last week: Connecting people with God through authentic relationships to serve communities. What do you think Newbreak already does well and what are you excited to see us focus on more in the coming months and years?

// Begin The Week In Worship // 15 minutes

Read Romans 12:1-3 [NIV]

COMMENTARY: Worship is our response to God’s mercy in our life. There are many things in each of our “worlds” that will constantly give us other options for how we spend our time. As Christ-followers, attending church regularly needs to be part of our regular weekly rhythm. This is why Newbreak offers many different service times on Saturday and Sunday at our five different campuses to make it easier for us to all begin our week in worship. With so many other things vying for our attention and our family’s time – especially here in San Diego -- we must choose to make this a priority, as it won’t happen otherwise. If we want to hear from God regularly, we need to regularly put ourselves where the word of God is taught and where we can worship with other Christ-followers. When we settle for just being “average, then that’s what we’ll see in our lives spiritually.

Read Hebrews 10:24-25 [NIV]

QUESTION 1: *What are the other options in your “world” that compete with you beginning your week in worship by regularly attending church on the weekends?*

FACILITATOR NOTE: While “worship” in the life of a believer can take on numerous forms beyond church attendance, for purposes of our Strategy, we are focusing first on corporate worship as a body. This is not to discount the importance of a lifestyle of worship but to show the importance of regular church attendance and the amazing and transformative things only God can do in a setting like corporate worship.

Beginning our week with God in worship reorients “my” position in “my” world. Committing to coming to church on a regular basis transforms us from within and this is exactly what Paul is talking about when he says, “be transformed by the renewing of your mind” in verse 2. If we really want to engage God’s strategy for reaching our full potential, the challenge is for us to commit to being at church every weekend we are in town.

QUESTION 2: *What are some practical steps you can take to remove these competing roadblocks in your “world”?*

FACILITATOR NOTE: Some practical steps can include:

- Putting church on my calendar.
- Listening to message podcast if I am out of town.

QUESTION 3: *What energizes you most about accepting the challenge to committing to attending church regularly? What are you anticipating God will do through it?*

// Belong Together In Life Groups // 15 minutes

Read Romans 12:4-5 [NIV]

COMMENTARY: We cannot be the people God designed us to be when we are doing life on our own. We function as one part of a larger group and cannot do what God calls us to do if separated from the “body” of believers. Paul emphasizes in verses 4-5 that although the different functions and gifts of the “body” are necessary for the health and enrichment of the whole, so in Christ, by our common union with Him, we who are many form one body. As one body of believers, each of us belongs to each other, that is, we are dependent on one another, and our “oneness” is enhanced by our diversity.

At Newbreak, we believe the best way to foster authentic relationships is in Life Groups. At the weekend worship experience, we can hear God's Word but we can't spend the time needed to get to know people. When it comes to relationships, we are better in circles than we are in rows. By explaining that we "belong" to the others, as Paul does in verse 5, he is highlighting how even if we think we don't individually or personally "need" to be in a life groups someone else likely needs us to be in one. What if we are supposed to be in a particular group specifically for someone else's needs?

QUESTION 4: *What are the biggest roadblocks in your "world" that keep you from committing to being in a life group?*

FACILITATOR NOTE: If we desire to fully engage with God's strategy for us to reach our full potential, we need to commit to being in a Life Group and to doing life with the people in our life group. We have perhaps all heard the adage: "If you want a friend, be a friend." When we participate in life groups, meaningfully engaging with others, we begin developing the authentic relationships that are key to our growth, and the growth of others.

QUESTION 5: *What are the distractors that might keep you from fully engaging in your life group?*

QUESTION 6: *What are some practical steps you can take to be fully engaged in your life group?*

FACILITATOR NOTE: Some practical steps can include:

- Go to dinner/have coffee with a person in your group.
- Commit to sitting together as a group at church
- Text/call a person in your group during the week.

// Be The Church By Serving // 15 minutes

Read Romans 12:6-8 [NIV]

COMMENTARY: In verse 6, Paul tells us that we all have different gifts according to the grace given to each of us. If God did not expect all of us to use our gifts, He wouldn't have given us each different gifts. He would have only given 20% of the people gifts to do 80% of the work. At Newbreak, we believe that when we are connected with God, doing life with others in authentic relationships, it is for a purpose and that is not just to grow into consumeristic Christians who are only concerned about themselves. As Christ-followers, we are all called to serve others. The cool thing is we don't all have to do it the same way, but we get to serve through the unique gifts and in ways consistent with how God has wired us. At Newbreak, we want to help you find the right place for you to use the gifts with which you have been blessed.

FACILITATOR NOTE: There are so many ways that a person can serve at Newbreak. Every Sunday we need hundreds of volunteers to help with parking, hospitality, greeting, on the production teams, to help with all of our kids, holding babies, to leading us as a church in worship. Maybe you already serve inside the church and you feel the call to serve with our local and global missions teams. We have teams that build houses in Mexico, help provide clean water for villages in Fiji and have had the opportunity to bring the gospel for the first time to the people in Papa New Guinea. Wherever you feel called, we want to help you serve in whatever capacity we can.

QUESTION 7: *What are some practical ways you can begin to serve at Newbreak?*

FACILITATOR NOTE: Imagine the powerful and amazing things God could do if we committed to consistently being the church by serving inside and outside the walls of Newbreak. The bottom line is that if we really want to engage in God's strategy for us as the body of believers at Newbreak, if we really want to reach our full potential, the challenge is for us to actively give of our time to serve in a ministry inside or outside the church on a regular and consistent basis.

QUESTION 8: *What is it you need to re-align in your "world" in order to serve in a ministry inside or outside the church on a regular and consistent basis?*

QUESTION 9: *What excites you about being able to serve at Newbreak?*

FACILITATOR NOTE: We will have opportunities to get signed-up and connected to serve at Newbreak at our Ministry Fair on the weekend of February 21-22.

// Key Memory Verses //

Week 1 - **Ephesians 4:4-6**, "You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness."

Week 2 - **Romans 12:1**, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."

// Look Up // 12 minutes

Facilitator note: Take some time and share any prayer requests within your group. Also pray for unity and about making the mission of Newbreak a priority in all of our lives. As you close this week, pray Ephesians 4:1-6 over your group:

Father,

We know your desire is for us to be unified as your church. Help us to be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Give us the strength to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Father we rejoice in the truth that there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Father, helps us be a people who are united in worship at Newbreak and for each one of us to live a life marked by worship. Help us realize that we are mightier together than we ever are alone. Ignite a passion in all of us to use our gifts not only in the church but in the community both here locally and globally. God, may you make Newbreak known as a church full of humble and faithful servants. *In Jesus name we pray; AMEN*