

Life Groups YouVersion Curriculum

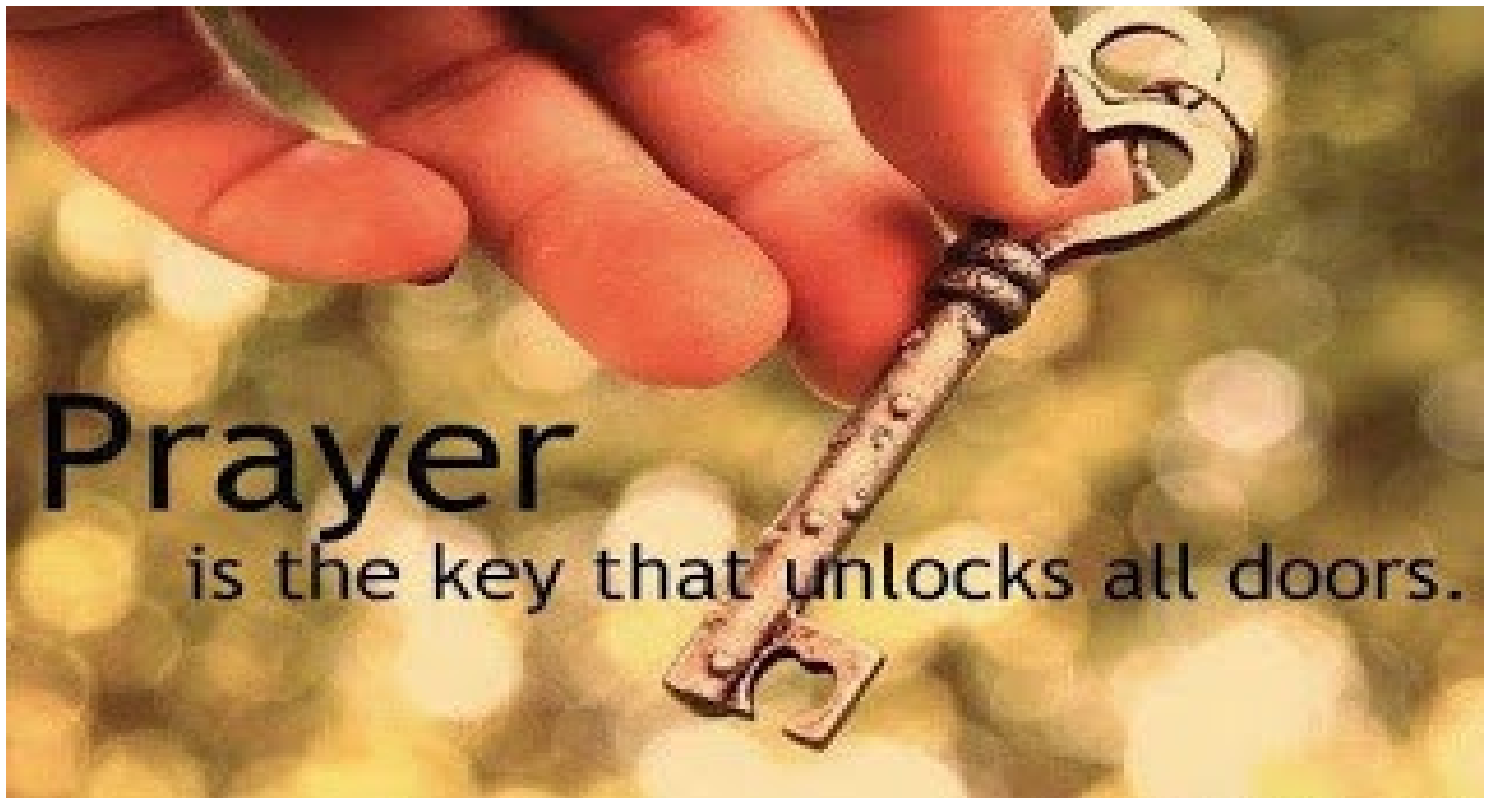
Rooted is a great experience in which we meet and develop bonds with other believers. It tangibly demonstrates the foundation of Christian living in 11 weeks. We learned in Rooted that God is eternal, so what is 11 weeks if a lifetime is just a mist? Rooted is a great experience, but it is only a beginning. It is important to practice the 7 Rooted Rhythms – Daily Devotion, Prayer, Freedom from Strongholds, Sacrificial Generosity, Serving the Community, Sharing Our Story, and Celebration – and make them into habits that last a lifetime. As your Life Group continues on to your normal rhythm of life, please consider that we are taught in God’s Word to follow Him closely, that He is a jealous God who desires for His children to be in close relationship with Him, and that we are called to obey His Word. Being a follower of God requires discipline, which is the root of the word discipleship, which is in turn a derivative of the word commonly used to describe those who wish to be known as followers of God – disciples.

The following curriculum is fluid and allows you to follow where the Holy Spirit leads. It is designed to reinforce and begin to establish a habit of following the 7 Rooted Rhythms. Each Rooted Rhythm is addressed in these segments. Please consider participating in one study from each segment, then repeating the process. It is highly unlikely that the material becomes boring, irrelevant, or repetitive, because one can read the Bible every day and learn something new and exciting. Being open to new perspectives is key to maintaining enthusiasm for learning about God. He is infinite in every way, and we are not (except in Him); therefore, we have much to learn if we will remain humble and open to His tutelage.



1. Who Is God?

- a. In any relationship, the bond of trust develops over time and shared experiences; therefore, we who believe in Jesus as our Savior, Redeemer, and Lord need to spend time getting to know who God is – His character, His attributes, and His actions. God is immense, and His essence is beyond or comprehension. He is omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent – all of which describe Him in terms we cannot completely come to understand in this life. He has revealed Himself to us through His revelations – Creation, His Word, and His experiences with us. To the extent that He has revealed Himself to us, we can gain some level of understanding of who He is and how to respond to God. For these and many other reasons, we want to know Him better to further develop our relationship with Him. That is why it is important to continue to learn more and more about who God is and to never be satisfied with what we currently know about God, but to press closer into our relationship with Him.
- b. Recommended YouVersion App Studies
 - i. Who God Is – 5 days
 - ii. Who Is Jesus? – 5 days
 - iii. Who Is the Holy Spirit? – 5 days
 - iv. Godly Character – 5 days
 - v. The Names of God – 3 days
 - vi. The Names of God, Part 2 – 8 days
 - vii. There are many more studies related to the character and attributes of God. Explore the YouVersion App for several more studies targeting areas in which you and your Life Group members can grow in your understanding of God and your relationship with Him through knowing and understanding Him better.



2. Prayer

- a. The relationships in which we constructively invest our time and energy will continue to grow, develop, and mature. Prayer is talking with God! Yes, it is that simple! Speaking with God as you would speak with your best friend is developing your relationship with God. Sharing your triumphs, joys, difficulties, and hardships like you would with your best friend is prayer – only with God. And just as we cannot have one-sided conversations with our best friend and learn about them, we must listen to what God says to us and take keen interest in what He instructs, because He is the Creator of the universe. He designed everything and works all things for good for those who believe. Listening is good, but we won't have a best friend very long if we do not value their input. It is the same with God. No one knows better. No one else is qualified to tell us the best path in all situations. Therefore, it is not only important to listen, but also to obey His instruction to us, His guidance for our well-being, and to recognize that He is our Heavenly Father, eternally faithful, and faithfully loving toward His children.
- b. Recommended YouVersion App Studies
 - i. Building A Daily Prayer Habit – 7 days
 - ii. Talking With God: Life Is Crazy, Prayer Is Simple – 5 days
 - iii. Presence-Filled Prayer: Experiencing God In Prayer – 5 days
 - iv. The Power Of Prayer – 5 days
 - v. Conversations With God – 12 days
 - vi. Grow In Prayer – 10 days
 - vii. There are many more studies in the YouVersion App to help us develop our prayer life and deepen our relationship with God. There are multiple methods of prayer that can open new and exciting ways to experience prayer. Repeating the Prayer Experience you had in Rooted is also a good rhythm to develop.



3. Scripture/Devotions

- a. God's Word is His special revelation to His people. As believers, we trust that God's Word is divinely inspired. It provides the greatest teachings known to humanity. It foretold of many things that have occurred throughout history and foretells of many more things to come. It stands to reason that we would want to immerse ourselves in what God is sharing with us through His revelation to us – to learn of Him, the plans He has for us, and His Kingdom that we have been called into by our belief in Jesus.
- b. Recommended YouVersion App Studies
 - i. God's Word For Every Day – 5 days
 - ii. Matthew studies in YouVersion – there are dozens from which to choose
 - iii. Mark studies in YouVersion – there are dozens from which to choose
 - iv. Luke studies in YouVersion – there are dozens from which to choose
 - v. John studies in YouVersion – there are dozens from which to choose
 - vi. Isaiah studies in YouVersion – there are dozens from which to choose
 - vii. Note that the above list is comprised of the Gospels and the Old Testament book often referred to as the original Gospel. Gospel means "Good News", and each of these accounts of the life and actions of Jesus is indeed good news to those who believe in Jesus. There are 61 more books of the Bible to study and there are multiple studies of each in the YouVersion App. Explore, discover, learn, and develop your relationship with God through study of His Word.



4. Adversity/Hardship/Suffering

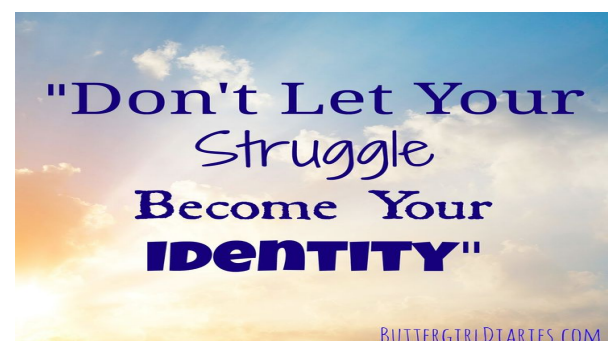
a. The reality of this world is that pain and suffering occur, sometimes with no apparent reason or justification. We see it every day if we watch the news, and all of us experience it in our lifetime. Rooted addressed this issue with four responses:

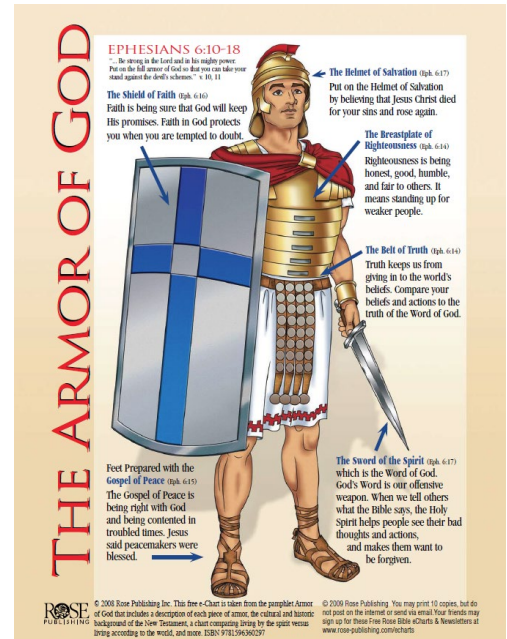
- i. We Are Not Alone
- ii. Double-Fisted Faith
- iii. Our Response: Surrender
- iv. Character Like Christ

Each of these daily studies opens the door to any number of YouVersion App studies. Search “adversity” in the plans section of the app and find dozens of studies on several types of adversity in various facets of life – work, parenting, personal struggles, etc. Likewise, searches using key words like “faith”, “surrender”, “submit”, and “character”, as well as studies in the “Who Is God?” section of this outline provide examples of how to overcome the world and live in the peace of our Savior.

b. Recommended YouVersion App Studies

- i. Overcome Adversity at Work – 4 days
- ii. Unlimited Faith – 14 days
- iii. Sanctuary – Moments In His Presence – 5 days
- iv. Finding Hope in Hardship – 5 days
- v. Through The Eyes Of Hope – 7 Days of Hope – 7 days
- vi. Overcoming Temptations: Lessons From Jesus’ Life – 4 days
- vii. The study options are as numerous as the challenges we face in this life. As you pray for each of the members of your Life Group, ask God to show you which areas He wants to use the vast resources in the YouVersion App to work in the lives of your group members to bring healing, overcoming, and growth into their lives and yours.





5. There Is An Enemy

- a. We inherently understand that there is a villain in every movie, play, story, or life, and sometimes, we take a liking to the villain in the story, because they are adventurous or maybe even a little dangerous and thrilling. However, we often neglect to take into account the reason they are the villain. Jesus tells us that the devil wants to steal, kill, and destroy. It's harder to have high regard for someone like that when we examine their actions. Too often Christians neglect to recognize the damage done by the presence of the enemy in our lives. This rhythm addresses our collective weaknesses head on, by encouraging us to come together with the Holy Spirit in opposition to the enemy. Rooted introduced us to this rhythm/discipline, and now it is time to develop our understanding and ability to cast out the enemy's influence in our lives!
- b. Recommended YouVersion App Studies
 - i. Broken Crayons Still Color – 5 days
 - ii. Hurt, But Not Held Back – 7 days
 - iii. Love Like That – 5 days
 - iv. Food Is Not The Enemy: Overcoming Food Struggles – 5 days
 - v. Overcoming Spiritual Attack – 3 days
 - vi. Overcoming Stress – 6 days
 - vii. YouVersion has dozens of studies on a myriad of topics including addiction, anxiety, worry, shame, stress, insomnia, temptations, and even smartphone addiction! There is a plan (or possibly several plans) for every hang-up or hurt. Search using words that describe the issue and be encouraged that you are not alone!



Jesus Washing the Feet of the Apostles, by Del Parson, © 1983 SKI

6. How Can I Make The Most Of My Life?

- a. God is the Creator of the universe, and He knitted each of us in the womb. His infinite knowledge, understanding, and wisdom in all that He has created begs us to listen to His direction for the best solution to what we should do in our lives, what purpose we should fulfill as members of His Kingdom. To that end, there are many studies on spiritual gifts that help identify our gifts, and how we can use those gifts to advance the Kingdom of God here on this earth.
In addition, God is very specific about some of the people we should help – orphans, widows, and the poor. While the world readily labels and identifies people as orphans, widows, and poor, those labels are less important than how God sees people. Part of the challenge of helping people is finding the ones that truly need and want help, whether they know it or not. The Holy Spirit is very helpful in identifying who and how to help those that God wants us to come along side.
- b. Recommended YouVersion App Studies
 - i. Unleash The Five Fold Spiritual Gifts – 7 days
 - ii. Spiritual Gifts | This Changes Everything – 7 days
 - iii. Miracle Invasion: The Holy Spirit's Gifts At Work Today – 9 days
 - iv. Exploring Your Gifts – 4 days
 - v. This Is Why – 7 days
 - vi. Preparing To Serve: A Biblical View Of Poverty – 5 days
 - vii. Central has a number of worthy serving opportunities to help Life Groups:
 1. Central's Marks of Ownership is a good thing to review at this point. Several ministries at Central need our help to sustain and thrive.
 2. Annual Christmas Events
 3. Annual Mobilize Event
 4. Get involved with whatever God has given you a passion to see succeed!

\$UCCESSFUL TEWARDSHIP

TAKING GOOD CARE OF GOD'S MONEY

7. How Does God View Money?

- a. "The love of money is a root of all sorts of evil..." – 1Timothy 6:10a. This verse and its many misquoted derivations comes up frequently when we study finances. It is an inescapable reality! Money is a powerful idol in the lives of many. That is why it is vital to learn how to relate to it and manage it. We are stewards of what God has given us; therefore, we cannot ignore money, but need to manage it properly.

We are the image of God, and through the process of sanctification, we are becoming more like Him as we mature. God is incredibly generous with us, so it follows that we should be generous with others.

- b. Recommended YouVersion App Studies
 - i. Developing A Godly Relationship With Money – 7 days
 - ii. The Money Mentor: a 7-Day Plan To Financial Health – 7 days
 - iii. Solving Your Money Problems Bible Plan – 4 days
 - iv. Money Basic For Kids – 3 days
 - v. 6 Days With Jesus: Money And Possessions – 6 days
 - vi. 5 Money Myths By Peter Briscoe – 5 days
 - vii. Central's Enrich Ministry offers many classes, seminars, and even individual planning to help develop sound, biblically based financial habits. YouVersion App has hundreds of other studies on financial topics.



EVERYONE HAS A STORY... WHAT IS YOURS?

8. Share Your Story

- a. Rooted did a great job of helping us refine our story into something we can share with others as opportunities arise. Rooted also teaches us to seek out opportunities to share our story with others. The Rooted Experience may have been the first time you had the confidence to share your story with others, but it should definitely not be the last time! Our story changes with time, because God continues to transform us into His image, so our story has to change along with the changes in our lives to remain authentic. Therefore, we need to revise our story as it changes from time to time. However, we should always be ready to share our story when the Holy Spirit prompts us, which is likely more often than we actually do so, but with a little practice, we can learn to be more in tune with how God asks us to share the love we have received.
- b. Recommended YouVersion App Studies
 - i. Share The Light – 5 days
 - ii. Inspire Others To Share – 5 days
 - iii. How To Share Your Faith – 7 days
 - iv. Four Ways To Share Jesus – 9 days
 - v. How To Share Your Story – 7 days
 - vi. I'm Just A Kid...How Do I Share God's Love? – 5 days
 - vii. Of course, Rooted gave us a solid means and method of sharing God, Jesus, and the Gospel by sharing our story of His influence in our lives
 1. Who I was before finding God
 2. My salvation experience
 3. Who I am after finding God

Updating our story is necessary from time to time, as God moves in our lives, and sometimes it needs to be refreshed to be more relevant to the people to whom we speak about God's miraculous salvation of us and for them!



9. Celebration!

- a. This rhythm is easy for some, or just not something that others think of practicing. So allow those who excel in this rhythm to help others see and experience the joy of regular celebration for what God is doing. Celebrating what God is doing in our lives is one way to give Him the glory, honor, and credit for His transforming work in us. Paul listed joy among the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22, and joy seems like the most appropriate response to salvation's gift!
- b. Recommended YouVersion App Studies
 - i. The Art Of Celebration – 7 days
 - ii. Celebrating Simplicity – 12 days
 - iii. Celebration Through Stewardship: A 14 Day Journey – 14 days
 - iv. Going Public: A Study About Baptism And Why It Matters – 7 days
 - v. This Lasting Joy Comes When You – 3 days
 - vi. A Place At The Table – 7 days
 - vii. Another way to study celebration is to search the YouVersion App or a good concordance with words related to celebration, like joy, peace, worship, or any of several dozen other words that convey a celebratory heart.

Rhythms and habits develop from fruitful practice, and while one can develop these rhythms through individual study, the depth and breadth of experience gained while sharing and listening to the perspectives of fellow believers, like in a Life Group increases our understanding in ways that our individual experiences cannot achieve. Practicing the 7 Rhythms taught in Rooted will position each of us to deepen our relationship with the Father and thereby increase our abilities to share His Kingdom riches with others.