



# **LIFEgroup Study Guide**

January 3 - January 17



# LIFEgroup Study Guide

This study guide follows along with LBF Church's current Sunday message series, and is intended to be a supplement in your daily passionate pursuit of Jesus.

- *Watch last Sunday's message video:*  
*[[www.lbf.church/messages](http://www.lbf.church/messages)]*

Is your group stumped? Did you come to a question that you feel needs clarification? Our church isn't too big. Contact Pastor Dan with your questions.

- *Contact Pastor Dan:*  
*[danfranklin@lbfchurch.com](mailto:danfranklin@lbfchurch.com)*

## **Lesson 1: The Fruit of Suffering**

Romans 5:1-5 • Pg. 5-6 • January 3

## **Lesson 2: Get Strong**

Hebrews 12:12-13 • Pg. 7-8 • January 10

## **Lesson 3: Speak Up**

Proverbs 31:8-9 • Pg. 9-11 • January 17



# PERSEVERE

## The Fruit of Suffering

Lesson 1 • January 3 • by Dan Franklin

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### Main Point

Suffering does not indicate God's absence, but rather God's training.

### Getting Started

1. What were the three biggest trials that you faced this past year?

2. What is your instinctive attitude when you face trials and challenges?

### Digging In

Read Romans 5:1-5.

1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because

we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

3. What stood out to you in this passage? If you heard to the sermon, feel free to share something significant that you remember.

4. Focus on verses 1-2. List everything said in these verses about the benefits that believers have through Jesus.

5. What do you think it means to glory in our sufferings?

6. Paul says that suffering eventually leads to hope. How do you think suffering can lead to hope?

7. Paul says in verse 5 that God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit. How does the presence of the Holy Spirit inside of you fill you with hope?

11. What do you think God is calling you to do right now in order to pursue the growth that he intends to bring into your life through suffering?

## **Wrestling With Big Ideas**

8. Suffering is always painful, and we rarely welcome it. What truths about God can you hold onto in order to enable you to endure suffering without despair?

## **Connecting With The Gospel**

9. This passage begins with reminders about our peace with God and our access to the Father through Jesus. This means that any suffering we face does not threaten our standing with God. What might be an illustration of how you can think about suffering in the overall context of what Paul is saying?

## **Taking It To Heart**

10. Think of the three trials that you identified back in the first question. What are some ways that you have seen God build perseverance and character and hope in you through those trials?

# PERSEVERE

## Get Strong

Lesson 2 • January 10 • by Dan Franklin

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### Main Point

We grow stronger by leaning into God's discipline.

the sermon, feel free to share something significant that you remember.

### Getting Started

1. What do you think are some indicators that someone is strong in their relationship with God?

4. The context of this passage is God's discipline. How does discipline relate to the "strengthening" feeble arms and weak knees?

2. Name two areas of your life in which you need to grow stronger.

5. How do you think Christians can follow this command to become stronger?

### Digging In

Read Hebrews 12:12-13.

12 Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. 13 "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

6. Verse 13 may refer back to verse 1, in which the author talks about the Christian life as a race that we are running. How do you think you could make level paths for yourself?

3. What stood out to you in this passage? If you heard

7. Verse 13 may indicate that God's discipline—which involves trials—could result in us being healed or being disabled. What do you think will determine which result we end up with?

## **Wrestling With Big Ideas**

8. How much of our growth as Christians is based on God's work and how much is based on our personal effort?

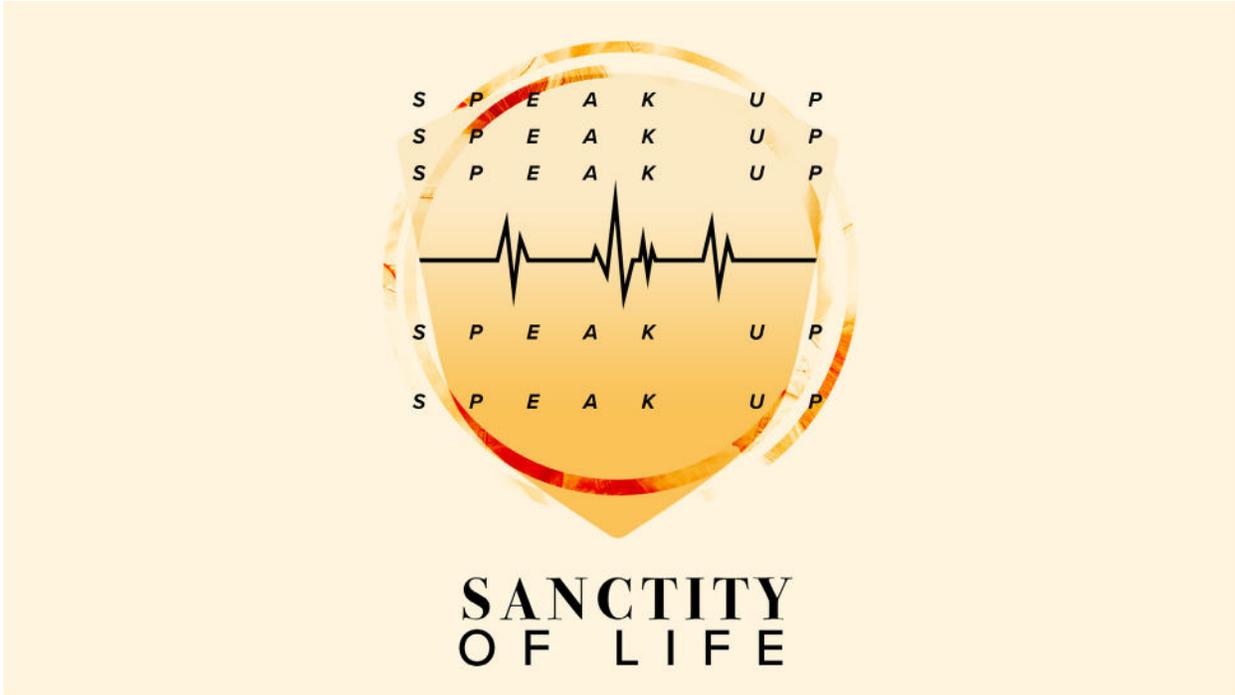
## **Connecting With The Gospel**

9. We are saved not by our efforts, but by God's grace, which is poured out in Jesus. How does that reality change your attitude toward the calling to grow stronger and endure trials?

## **Taking It To Heart**

10. If you were to grow stronger in the areas that you identified in question #2, how would that strength prepare you for possible challenges in the future?

11. What do you sense God calling you to do in order to actively pursue growth in the areas you identified in question #2?



# **LIFEgroup Study Guide**

January 17



# SANCTITY OF LIFE

## Speak Up

Lesson 1 • January 17 • by Dan Franklin

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### Main Point

God's calling is for privileged people to speak up for vulnerable people.

3. What stood out to you in this passage? If you heard the sermon, feel free to share something significant that you remember.

### Getting Started

1. What are some reasons why the issue of abortion is such a controversial and heated topic?

4. What are some groups of people who are not in a position to "speak for themselves"?

2. How do you think abortion relates to other cultural issues of justice and compassion?

5. These words were originally addressed to a king. In light of this, what do you think would be a good broad application of these verses for the average person?

### Digging In

Read Proverbs 31:8-9.

8 Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,

for the rights of all who are destitute.

9 Speak up and judge fairly;

defend the rights of the poor and needy.

6. Verse 9 speaks of judging fairly. What are some reasons why each of us might be tempted not to judge others fairly?

7. The final statement in verse 9 relates to the “rights” of the poor and needy. What sorts of rights do you think are in mind in this verse?

## **Wrestling With Big Ideas**

8. Sometimes people are “destitute” because of poor or sinful decisions that they have made. How should this fact influence how we “speak up” for them?

## **Connecting With The Gospel**

9. Sometimes we can be afraid to speak up for others because doing so might lead to us losing status. How does the new status that Jesus brings us through the gospel empower us to risk losing status before others?

## **Taking It To Heart**

10. How do the verses in this lesson apply specifically to how Christians respond to questions surrounding unborn babies and their mothers?

11. In your daily life, what are some opportunities that you have to use your voice to speak up for people who are vulnerable and forgotten?