

ALL IN *is about* HONOR

He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.’”

Mark 7:6 NKJV

INTRODUCTION

Honor is not a word or an action that shows up regularly in life today. The concept may be mentioned in military settings or in discussions about what it means to honor one's parents, but honor is seldom part of our daily routine. When we begin our morning, we probably don't think, "today I want to live an honorable life." The absence of honor has a lot to do with the shallowness of our relationship with God and with other people.

So, what is honor? The word summarizes appropriate respect and actions toward someone's character, role, or position. The more someone's character, role, and position harmonize, the easier it should be to honor them. This is true of no one more than it is true of God. And yet, as we will see in this session, we often struggle with honoring God in consistent ways.

One of the passages we looked at last week included the phrase "*In all your ways acknowledge Him*" (Proverbs 3:6, ESV). Honoring God is not only acknowledging Him, but acknowledging Him in all our ways. Jesus was quoting Isaiah who was taking a direct quote from God when He said, "This people honors Me with their lips but their heart is far from Me." We want to be a people who do a lot more than give lip service to the idea of honoring God.

COME TOGETHER

LIFE Group Leader Note: Open the time with prayer. Then use the following questions and activities to get people talking.

- 1 In your life, who have you run across that you would say was easy to honor? What was it about them that caused that response in you?
- 2 How has this series caused you to re-evaluate how you use your resources?





WATCH THE VIDEO

You can watch the video online at sdrock.com/ALLIN or on the ALL IN DVD. Use the space to record any key thoughts, questions, and things you want to remember or follow up on. After watching the video, have someone read the Scripture passage and questions in the Read section and direct the discussion among the group. As you go through each of the subsequent sections, ask someone else to read the questions and direct the discussion.





LEARN TOGETHER



When we as a LIFE Group come together, we each have our own observations and responses to what we're hearing, but it often takes the impact of a group's response to help us see what we've overlooked or missed. God uses us in each other's lives for good in this way.

Use the following questions to guide your discussion of the teaching and stories you just experienced, and the Bible passage on the next page. You may also want to refer to the study notes on page 48 to guide your reading and discussion.

READ: GENESIS 14:14-24

¹⁴ Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. ¹⁵ He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus. ¹⁶ So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people. ¹⁷ And the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him. ¹⁸ Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. ¹⁹ And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; ²⁰ And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all. ²¹ Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself." ²² But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven

and earth, ²³ that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich' ²⁴ except only what the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men who went with me: Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion." (NKJV)

- 3 Why is it important to honor God?
- 4 How was giving a tithe to Melchizedek actually honoring God? What's the parallel for us today?
- 5 Thinking about Pastor Miles' teaching and the Scripture we just read, what different ways did Abram honor God?
- 6 When Pastor Miles was interacting with the crowd after his teaching, what stood out to you in the comments and questions?



STUDY NOTES

Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive (v.14). Abram honored his relationship with Lot by “having his back” when he could have stayed at a distance. He was ALL IN when he went after Lot’s captors. God calls us to live out our relationships with honor.

So he brought back all the goods (v.16). Abram routed the raiders and recaptured everything and everyone that had been taken. Every aspect of this episode has God’s fingerprints all over it.

Melchizedek king of Salem (v.19). This figure appears without any introduction or background. He is mentioned again in Psalm 110 and in Hebrews 7:1-22 in discussing the unique role of Jesus who is both our king and priest, much as Melchizedek served both those roles. It is clear that Abram and Melchizedek recognized in one another an allegiance to the God above all gods.

And he (Abram) gave him (Melchizedek) a tithe of all (v.20). When God blessed Abram with a victory, his first thought was “how can I honor God in return for this great blessing?” (vs. 17-24).

I have raised my hand to the Lord, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth (v.22). Abram understood that accepting bounty from the king of Salem would make him indebted to him and he insisted on giving credit for his abundance to God Himself and no other.

GROW TOGETHER

Like the people who were talking with Pastor Miles, we want our LIFE Groups to be safe places where we can ask questions and get biblical answers. The ALL IN Initiative is a special season to help us realize how much we need each other and discover the joy of helping one another. Each of us has a part, but we’re in this together—all in.

- 7 What is a way that you are honoring God currently with your resources? Share with the group as a means for inspiring others.
- 8 During the ALL IN Initiative, what changes have you made or considered making about the way you honor God with your time, your resources, or your relationships?
- 9 If you were to truly ask yourself the question, “What am I NOT giving and why?” how would you answer that as it relates to honoring God with ALL that you have and ALL that you are?



SHARE AND WORSHIP TOGETHER

To close your time together, spend some time worshipping God together—praying, singing, and reading Scripture.

- 1 Select this week's worship set on your DVD or online video (sdrock.com/ALLIN).
- 2 Ask everyone to share: "How can we pray for you this week?" Be sure to write prayer requests on your *Prayer and Praise Report* on page 104.
- 3 Close your meeting with prayer.

SERMON NOTES

DAILY DEVOTIONALS



There are six days of devotions. On the last day, read back over your responses and let that guide a final time of reflection.

Use these daily devotions to go deeper into this week's topic. Each day, read the verse given. Take your time. Ask God to speak to you through His Word. Notice which word or phrase stands out to you. Then take some time to journal your response back to him. You can write whatever is on your heart. Answer the "Reflect" question only if it's helpful. Feel free to go another direction, if you sense God leading you. On the first day, you may want to read over all the verses for the week to get the "big picture" of the passage. But then walk slowly, verse by verse. Listen to what God wants to say to you through His Word, and respond to Him as you meditate on the truths of Scripture.

After Day 3 of each week, you will have an opportunity to take what you have learned and put it into practice. These "Action Steps" will challenge you to respond to these truths in your daily life.

DAY 1

Read Mark 7:6

He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.'"

Reflect:

In the solitude of your heart's thoughts, how ALL IN are you to this challenge of honoring God with everything?

DAY 2

Read Revelation 4:11

You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

Reflect:

How does this verse make the case for making everything we are and everything we have available to God 24/7?

DAY 3

Read Matthew 8:8-9

The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

Reflect:

How did this centurion combine faith with honor to acknowledge Jesus' power?

Action Steps:

Each day this week pick one person you can show honor to—someone from work, your family, etc.

DAY 4

Read Luke 19:8

Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."

Reflect:

What happened in Zacchaeus that would cause him to honor God with 100%?

DAY 5

Read 1 Samuel 2:29-30

"Why do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering which I have commanded in My dwelling place, and honor your sons more than Me, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people?" Therefore the Lord God of Israel says: "I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever." But now the Lord says: "Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed."

Reflect:

God let Eli know that he was honoring his sons more than he was honoring the Lord. What promise did God also give that we can count on?

DAY 6

Use the following space to write any thoughts God has put in your heart and mind about the things we have looked at in this session and during your reflection time this week.

APPENDICES



HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

Tools to Help You Have a Great LIFE Group Experience!



- 1 Notice in the Table of Contents there are three sections: (1) Front Matter; (2) Sessions; and (3) Appendices. Familiarize yourself with these sections. Some of the Appendices will be used in the sessions themselves.
- 2 This is much more than a LIFE Group workbook. It has been designed as a constant companion for the ALL IN Initiative. What we do in worship, the messages we hear, and every aspect of our life together as Rock Church family will be guided by this Study Guide during the coming weeks.
- 3 If you are Hosting or co-hosting a LIFE Group, check out sdrockgroups.com and you will find some encouragement and help so you can avoid common obstacles to effective group meetings.
- 4 Use this Study Guide as an advisor. If the group responds to the lesson in an unexpected but honest way, go with that. If you think of a better question than the next one in the lesson, ask it.
- 5 Enjoy your LIFE Group experience. Have fun.
- 6 Pray before each session—for your group members, for your time together, and for wisdom and insights.
- 7 Read the outline for each session on the next pages so that you understand how the sessions will flow.

OUTLINE OF EACH SESSION

A typical group session for the ALL IN study will include the following sections:

INTRODUCTION. Each lesson opens with a brief thought that will help you prepare for the session and get you thinking about the particular subject you will explore with your group. Make it a practice to read these before the session.

COME TOGETHER. The foundation for spiritual growth is an intimate connection with God and God's family. You build that connection by sharing your experience with a few people who really know you and who earn your trust. This is helpful preparation for being able to share what Christ has done in your life with anyone you meet—which is what a disciple is ready to do. This section includes some simple questions to get you talking—letting you share as much or as little of your story as you feel comfortable doing. Each session typically offers you 2 options. You can get to know your whole group by using the icebreaker question(s), or you can check in with 1 or 2 group members for a deeper connection and encouragement in your spiritual journey.

WATCH THE VIDEO. When the study directs you to, you'll start the video and watch a short teaching segment. You can watch the videos online at sdrock.com/allin or with the ALL IN DVD available at each Rock campus. Each session's teaching will include biblical insights from Pastor Miles, interaction with brothers and sisters about aspects of the ALL IN life, and powerful worship music to lead us into God's presence. Space is provided in this study guide to take notes you can use in the discussion to follow.

LEARN TOGETHER. In this section, you'll have an opportunity to read a passage of Scripture and discuss both the teaching and the text. You won't focus on accumulating information but on how you should live in light of the Word of God. We want to help you apply the insights from Scripture practically and creatively, from your heart as well as your head. At the end of the day, allowing the timeless truths from God's Word to transform our lives in Christ should be your greatest aim.

STUDY NOTES. This brief section provides additional commentary, background, or insights on the passage you'll study in the Learn Together section.

GROW TOGETHER. God wants you to be a part of His Kingdom—to weave your story into His. That will mean change. It will require you to go His way rather than your own. This won't happen overnight, but it should happen steadily. By making small, simple choices, we can begin to change our direction. This is where the Bible's instructions to "be doers of the Word, not just hearers" (James 1:22) comes into play. Many people skip over this aspect of the Christian life because it's scary, relationally awkward, or simply too much work for their busy schedules. But Jesus wanted all of His disciples to know Him personally, carry out His commands, and help outsiders connect with Him. This doesn't necessarily mean preaching on street corners. It could mean welcoming newcomers, hosting a short-term group in your home, or walking through this study with a friend. In this study, you'll have an opportunity to go beyond Bible study to biblical living.

SHARE AND WORSHIP TOGETHER. This section will have a question or two that will challenge you to live out your faith by serving others, sharing your faith, and worshiping God.

SERMON NOTES. Bring your study guide with you each Sunday and take notes during the sermon in the provided blanks.

DAILY DEVOTIONS. Each week on the Daily Devotions pages we provide Scriptures to read and reflect on between sessions—a month's worth of reflections to keep God's Word near your heart. This provides you with a chance to slow down, read just a small portion of Scripture each day, and reflect and pray through it. You'll then have a chance to journal your response to what you've read. Use this section to seek God on your own throughout the week. This time at home should begin and end with prayer. Don't get in a hurry; take enough time to hear God's direction.

FAQs

About LIFE Groups

What do we do on the first night of our group?

Like all fun things in life—have a party! A “get to know you” coffee, dinner, or dessert is a great way to launch a new study. You may want to review the Group Agreement (page 101) and share the names of a few friends you can invite to join you. But most importantly, have fun before your study time begins.

Where do we find new members for our group?

The best way to grow your group is through personal invitation! Make a list of friends, coworkers, and family members, etc. that you can invite. And then make it a point to talk to at least five people every Sunday, asking if they’re in a LIFE Group, and then invite them to your group if they’re not already involved.

No matter how you find members, it’s vital that you stay on the lookout for new people to join your group. All groups tend to go through healthy attrition—the result of moves, releasing new hosts, ministry opportunities, and so forth—and if the group gets too small, it could be at risk of shutting down. If you and your group stay open, you’ll be amazed at the people God sends your way. The next person just might become a friend for life. You never know!

How long will this group meet?

The ALL IN Study lasts for 6 weeks, but we’d encourage you to prayerfully consider continuing your group after ALL IN is complete! At the end of this study, each group member may decide if he or she wants to continue on; some groups launch relationships for years to come and others are stepping stones into another group experience. Either way, enjoy the journey.

Can we do this study on our own?

Absolutely! This may sound crazy, but one of the best ways to do this study is not with a full house but with a few friends. You may choose to gather with another couple who would enjoy some relational time (perhaps going to the movies or having a quiet dinner) and then walking through this study. Jesus will be with you even if there are only two of you (Matthew 18:20).

What if this group is not working for us?

You’re not alone! This could be the result of a personality conflict, life stage difference, geographical distance, level of spiritual maturity, or any number of things. Relax. Pray for God’s direction, and at the end of this 6-week study, decide whether to continue with this group or find another. You don’t typically buy the first car you look at or marry the first person you date, and the same goes with a group. However, don’t bail out before the 6 weeks are up—God might have something to teach you. Also, don’t run from conflict or prejudice people before you have given them a chance. God is still working in your life, too!

Who is the host?

Most groups have an official host who facilitates the group. But ideally, the group will mature and members will rotate the leadership of meetings. We have discovered that healthy groups rotate hosts/leaders, on a regular basis. This model ensures that all members grow, give their unique contribution, and develop their gifts. This study guide and the Holy Spirit can keep things on track even when you rotate hosts. Christ has promised to be in your midst as you gather. Ultimately, God is your leader each step of the way.

How do we handle the childcare needs in our group?

Very carefully. Seriously, this can be a sensitive issue. We suggest that you empower the group to openly brainstorm solutions. You may try one option that works for a while and then adjust over time. Our favorite approach is for adults to meet in the living room or dining room and to share the cost of a babysitter (or two) who can watch the kids in a different part of the house. This way, parents don’t have to be away from their children all evening when their children are too young to be left at home. A second option is to use one home for the kids and a second home (close by or a phone call away) for the adults. A third idea is to rotate the responsibility of providing a lesson or care for the children either in the same home or in another home nearby. This can be an incredible blessing for kids. Finally, the most common solution is to decide that you need to have a night to invest in your spiritual lives individually or as a couple and to make your own arrangements for childcare. No matter what decision the group makes, the best approach is to dialogue openly about both the problem and the solution.

LIFE GROUP AGREEMENT

Our purpose is to talk about what it means to live a God-first life with a few friends.

Group Attendance	To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent. (Completing the Group Calendar on page 102 will minimize this issue.)
Safe Environment	To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved.
Respect Differences	To be gentle and gracious toward people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments, or “imperfections.” We are all a work in progress.
Confidentiality	To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group, and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.
Encouragement for Growth	Accept one another as we are while encouraging one another to grow.
Shared Ownership	To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attender will share a small team role or responsibility over time.

LIFE GROUP CALENDAR

Planning and setting dates can help ensure the greatest participation at every meeting. At the end of each meeting, review this calendar. Consider rotating the host, and don't forget birthdays, socials, church events, holidays, and outreach/ ministry projects.

DATE	LESSON	HOST	REFRESHMENTS	HOST
Monday Jan 15	1	Bill	Joe	Bill

MEMORY VERSES

SESSION ONE
By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

(Hebrews 11:8 NKJV)

SESSION TWO
Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

(Philippians 2:4 NKJV)

SESSION THREE
He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me'"

(Mark 7:6 NKJV)

SESSION FOUR
To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

(Revelation 3:21 NKJV)

SESSION FIVE
...for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

(Philippians 2:13 NKJV)

SESSION SIX
But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ...

(Philippians 3:7-8 NKJV)



