



Group Discussion Guide: Love People | January 15, 2023

Open with prayer (5 minutes).

Take a few minutes to acknowledge God's presence as you begin your group time. Ask Him to help your group have a good discussion and to help you internalize the Scriptures.

Break into smaller groups and debrief the sermon (30 minutes).

Select a few of these questions to help you discuss the sermon. You may even come up with a few questions that would be good for your specific group to discuss.

- In your opinion, what are the top three things Christians are known for being or doing in the world today? Do you think “loving people” would be on that list? Why or why not? Have each person share at least one thought.
- When have you experienced followers of Jesus being unloving?
- When have you experienced an exponential outpouring of love from Christians? How did that impact you?
- **Read John 13:35.** Pretend for moment you hadn't heard the verse: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.” How would you finish it? How do you think people outside of the church would finish it?
- **Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7.** Which of the different definitions of love in these verses are you strong in (examples: “being loving by being patient,” “being loving by being kind,” “being loving by not envying...”) ? Which could you grow in?
- Who in your life is hard to love? Why is that?
- What groups of people do you find hard to love? Explain.
- What truths about God or yourself could you consider to help you love that person or those people? What does “loving people” have to do with being for the 317?
- How else did God speak to you from this message?

Read The Good Samaritan story together (20 minutes).

Spend some time reading through **Luke 10:30-37** and notice how the Samaritan man loves his neighbor. You're invited to use a practice where you spend time praying Scripture called *Lectio Divina*, which simply means “divine reading.” You'll read through the passage four different times, inviting God to speak to you through the text. Use the prompts below to help you along.



FIRST READING

Sit quietly for a moment before you begin. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak and show you what the Lord wants for you in this passage. Read through the Scripture passage above. Mark words or phrases that stand out as you read.

SECOND READING

Read the passage again. Are the same words or phrases you marked the first time still standing out? Write them down. How do these words or phrases apply to your life right now?

THIRD READING

As you read the text for a third time, ask yourself, “What is God teaching me specifically about Himself? What aspect of His character do I need to lean into?” Sit quietly for a moment while you listen for his voice. Ask him how he’d like for you to respond. Write out what comes to mind.

FOURTH READING

Read the passage one last time and answer these questions: “Why is God showing me this now? What does this mean for my life?” Write out a prayerful response to God.

Discuss your reflections with your group (10 minutes).

- What was this practice like for you?
- What stood out to you most from this exercise? In what small or large way did this exercise deepen your faith?
- How did God speak to you through this text?

Finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes).

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone’s prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.