

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PRAY TOGETHER

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your Word today, we thank You for the incredible love You've shown us through Christ. Open our hearts to receive the message about loving others as ourselves. Help us to be honest about where we fall short in extending Your love to those around us. Give us the courage to examine our own lives and the humility to make changes where needed. May this discussion draw us closer to You and to each other as we learn to love more like Jesus. Amen.

ICE BREAKER

The sermon began with CJ at the scorekeeper's table and the reminder: "I'm on your team!" When have you experienced being misunderstood, even when you were trying to help? How did you respond?

SERMON OVERVIEW

Pastor CJ challenges us to live out Christ's command to "love your neighbor as yourself," as Paul exhorts us to see love as a "continuing debt" that we can never fully repay. We naturally love ourselves by excusing our faults, prioritizing our comfort, and defending our reputation—yet often fail to extend this same grace to others. The parable of the Good Samaritan motivates us to see everyone we encounter as our neighbor, regardless of differences or inconvenience. Pastor CJ asks us to move beyond self-centeredness, to be true "fans" of others by actively encouraging and supporting them, and to recognize that when we love others as ourselves, we fulfill the law and reflect Christ, who loved us while we were still sinners. This simple yet profound command forms the foundation of Christian living.

READ SCRIPTURE

ROMANS 13:8-10
LUKE 10:25-37

CONNECT RELATIONALLY

- 1) Who was the last person who encouraged you or cheered you on, and how did it make you feel?
- 2) How do you tend to love yourself differently from how you love others? Can you share an example?
- 3) Who is one person in your life that you find most challenging to love or who you've been intentionally keeping at a distance?

**GROW
SPIRITUALLY**

4) Paul says, "Love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law." How does loving others as ourselves fulfill the law, as Paul suggests? What other scriptures can you think of that relate to this idea?

5) Pastor CJ mentioned several societal patterns, like the emphasis on technology and individualism, that conflict with scriptural ideals. How do these patterns compare to biblical teachings on community and self-sacrifice?

6) The parable of the Good Samaritan shifts the question from "Who is my neighbor?" to "How do I live as a neighbor?" What does it mean for us to see people as "half alive" instead of "half dead"?

**LIVE
GENEROUSLY**

7) Pastor CJ mentioned that we often want to be the 'innkeeper' rather than the 'Good Samaritan.' Which character do you most often identify with and why? What makes being the Good Samaritan so challenging?

8) How does the notion of cheering others on impact your perspective on how you perceive and support people around you, including those who are different from you? What would it look like in your week to intentionally "cheer on" someone in your workplace, neighborhood, or family?

9) Reflect on the relationship (from question 3) where you've found it most challenging to extend love. What's one step you can take this week to decrease the distance you might be creating and tangibly show Christ's love?

**TAKE
ACTION**

Based on our conversation today, and how the Holy Spirit is moving within me, I am feeling convicted to take the following action (keep it simple):

Please ask each member to share their step if they have one. It is ok if you are still discerning and need time to process, pray and ponder.

**PRAY
TOGETHER**

Please take a few moments to ask each member to share a joy or praise and an area of concern. Ask someone to pray over these requests, and please distribute these to all group members so you may continue to intercede for one another between your meetings.

**ENGAGE
TOGETHER**

We saw an amazing video about the launch of Northview Athletics. Learn more about signing up a child, becoming a coach, or volunteering at northviewathletics.us or on the Northview App.