

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of September 27

LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS

Luke 10:25–37, Matthew 22:34–40, 1 Corinthians 16:14

MAIN POINT

God calls us to love Him and love others—not only through rare, heroic acts of love, but through the small, daily ways we love the people God has placed around us.

LOOK → UNDERSTAND → CONNECT → APPLY → PRAY

LOOK — What does God's Word say?

Read Luke 10:25–37 together.

1. What does Jesus teach us about loving our neighbor through the story of the Good Samaritan?

Leader follow-up:

- Who does Jesus identify as the neighbor in this story?
- What did the Samaritan actually do for the man who had been beaten?
- What stands out to you about the way he responded?

2. What did the Samaritan's love actually cost him?

Leader follow-up:

- What did he give in terms of time, money, attention, and convenience?
- What might he have done instead?
- Why do you think Jesus included these details in the story?

Leader Note: The Samaritan's love was not merely a feeling. He saw someone in need and responded with practical, sacrificial action.

UNDERSTAND — What does it mean?
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3. Read Matthew 22:34–40. How do loving God and loving others relate to each other?

Leader follow-up:

- Why do you think Jesus connects these two commands so closely?
- What does loving God have to do with the way we love other people?
- What happens when we try to love others without first loving God?

4. The Samaritan's love was not merely a feeling—he acted. What does this story teach us about the relationship between love and action?

Leader follow-up:

- Can we genuinely love someone while consistently refusing to act for their good?
- What kinds of actions demonstrate love even when we don't feel particularly loving?
- Why can it be easier to say we love someone than to actually serve them?

5. Read 1 Corinthians 16:14: "Let all that you do be done in love." What does this add to our understanding of Christian love?

Leader follow-up:

- What does "all that you do" suggest about how broadly love should shape our lives?
- What would it look like for love to shape our conversations, decisions, responsibilities, and relationships?
- How is this different from only showing love during extraordinary moments?

Leader Note: Christian love is not reserved for dramatic opportunities. We are called to let love characterize the ordinary things we do every day.

CONNECT — How does it connect to our lives?
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6. We often recognize heroic acts of love because they are dramatic and memorable. Why might the small, daily acts of love be easier to overlook?

Leader follow-up:

- What are some ordinary acts of love that may seem insignificant but can make a meaningful difference?
- Why might we be more excited about doing something heroic than faithfully doing something small?
- Who in your life might especially benefit from those small acts of love?

Leader Note: The sermon emphasizes that while we may occasionally have opportunities for extraordinary acts of love, much of Christian love happens in ordinary places—with our spouse, children, family, coworkers, neighbors, friends, and strangers.

7. Which people are easiest for you to love? Which people are more difficult to love? Why?

Leader follow-up:

- What makes loving certain people difficult?
- How might Jesus' choice of a Samaritan challenge our natural boundaries around who deserves our attention or care?
- What does this reveal about the way we tend to define "neighbor"?

8. What can get in the way of loving the people around us in ordinary, daily ways?

Leader follow-up:

- How might busyness, irritation, selfishness, distraction, or exhaustion keep us from noticing opportunities to love?
- How can our normal routines cause us to overlook people who need our attention?
- What would it look like to become more intentional about noticing the people around us?

APPLY — What will we do with this?

9. What is one ordinary relationship—perhaps with your spouse, child, family member, coworker, neighbor, or friend—where you could become more intentional about showing love?

Leader follow-up:

- What is one specific action you could take this week?
- What might make it difficult to follow through?
- How could you remind yourself to actually do it?

10. How would your relationships change if you began looking for small opportunities to love rather than waiting for a big opportunity to do something heroic?

Leader follow-up:

- What might you begin to notice that you currently overlook?
- How could this change the atmosphere of your home?
- How might this affect the way you interact with people at work, church, or in your neighborhood?

PRAY — How should we pray about it?
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Share briefly:

- Who is one person you want to love more intentionally?
- Where do you need God's help to love others well?
- What is one specific opportunity to put love into action this week?

Pray for one another:

Ask God to help us love Him with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind; love our neighbors as ourselves; notice the people He puts in our path; and become people whose ordinary, everyday actions are characterized by love.

Pray also for other requests, needs, and praises mentioned by group members.