

LIFE Group Study: Week 3



Checking In

What was something in particular that you worked on from last week or something that stood out to you as you meditated on the devotions? Share with your group if you can.

Other than those across the street or right next door, who do you consider to be your neighbor?



Memory Verse

“You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Matthew 22:37-39



Outline

Loving God and loving each other is at the very heart of what God wants for His people. In today’s world it can be very difficult to show love and also accept love from others. The Bible provides numerous examples of how God showed love for us. Life is not about what we have or what we’ve accomplished. It’s about loving God and each other from our hearts.

Three possible attitudes toward others:

1. Keep the _____. Stay separate.
The attitude of avoidance
2. Interested but _____. Superficial.
3. Treat them how you want to be _____.
The Golden Rule.

Three things we must do to become the kind of people who love our neighbors:

1. _____ them. The principal of sensitivity
2. _____ with them. Feel what they feel. Key principal: The better the listener, the greater the lover.
3. _____ the moment.



Short Video Material



Discovery Questions

1. Have you ever avoided talking with a friend when you knew they were having a rough time because you didn't want to deal with their emotions? Have you ever decided that you didn't have time to reach out and check in with someone you haven't talked with in a while? How has that approach to relationships affected you personally?
2. Which character would you say you most often identify with in the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25:
 - The priest who just walked on by?
 - The Levite who saw the injured man, but didn't want to get involved?
 - The Samaritan who chose to set his own agenda aside long enough to help the man regardless of the cost of time, money, or physical strength?
3. Do you allow busyness to consume your daily routine? What could you change in your daily schedule to make time to slow down and see others so that you could be available to let God work through you?



Putting It Into Practice

1. Make a point to be intentional in your conversations with others this week. Be sure to make eye contact with them and be a good listener. It never hurts to ask someone if they would like you to pray with or for them.
2. Ask your LIFE Group, friends, or spouse to help you identify behaviors in you that could be changed to help you be more like the Samaritan.
3. Learn to seize the moment. Train yourself to be on the lookout for any opportunity to be of help to someone else—at work, at the grocery store, and, of course, in your own home. We all need help at different times for various reasons.



Prayer Direction

This week ask God to help you be more like the Samaritan. Pray as a group that God will move each of you to actively seek out those in need and to be willing to provide any assistance needed.



Diving Deeper

1. Find Scripture in your Bible that will help remind you of how God chooses to show His love to us. Use these verses to help you make changes in your approach to your relationship with Him and others.
2. Spend some time evaluating your own actions toward others and try to imagine the situation reversed. Ask yourself if that is how you would have wanted to be treated. Ask God to open your eyes to see others as He sees them, and be able to offer any assistance regardless of the cost.
3. Also, continue on with the Daily Devotions that follow.

Loving our neighbors can be difficult, and there are likely times when we may not make it easy for others to love us. God calls us to be connected to each other and treat each other as neighbors even when we may not really feel like it.

Lord, if I am a difficult neighbor to love, I pray that you will soften my heart to see others as you do and treat others with love and kindness. In Jesus' Name, Amen.