

Small Group Bible Study

More Than a Feeling - Week 1

Main Theme Disciples love Jesus, and that love changes how they love others.

Icebreaker

- Where did you see God's strength meet you in a weakness or struggle this past week?
- What is a label or title you carry that tells people something about you? It can be serious or completely random

Opening Prayer

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Section 1: More Than a Label

1. Read James 2:19, Mark 1:23–24 & Mark 3:11

The teaching raises an important question: *What does it actually mean to call ourselves Christians?* Scripture shows us that simply knowing the truth about who Jesus is isn't the whole picture—even demons recognized who Jesus was

- What do you notice about what the demons know and believe about Jesus in these passages?
- What is the difference between knowing **about** Jesus and actually following Jesus?
- Why do you think it can be easy to associate being a Christian with things like church attendance, baptism, giving, or other Christian activities?
- The word *disciple* means learner, pupil, or apprentice. How does that deepen your understanding of what it means to follow Jesus? Pasted text
- If someone looked at your life instead of simply hearing you say you are a Christian, what evidence would they see that you are following Jesus?

Section 2: Saved by Grace, Changed by Grace

2. Read Ephesians 2:8–10

Paul makes something really clear: we are saved **by grace through faith**, not because of anything we have done. But he immediately follows that by saying we have been created in Christ Jesus **to do good works**. The teaching puts it this way: *"We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, but saving faith never remains alone."*

- What do verses 8–9 make clear about how we are saved?
- What does verse 10 add to the picture? Why is it important that these truths stay together?
- What is the difference between doing good things **to earn** something from God and good works flowing **from** what God has already done in us?
- What evidence of God changing you have you seen in your own life?
- Where do you want your life to look more like Jesus?

Section 3: The First Mark | Love

3. Read Matthew 22:37–40 & John 13:34–35

Jesus puts love for God and love for others at the center of following Him. And in John 13, He says the way His disciples love one another will actually identify them as His followers. The teaching describes love as the **“yardstick for discipleship.”**

- What do you notice about the way Jesus connects loving God and loving people?
- What does it mean practically to love God with your **heart, soul, and mind**?
- Why do you think Jesus chose love as something that would identify His disciples to the world?
- How is biblical love different from simply being nice or having positive feelings toward someone?
- If love is a “yardstick” for discipleship, what would your relationships currently reveal about your walk with Jesus?
- Who is God asking you to love in a way that costs you something right now?

Taking Your Next Step

- What challenged you most about the difference between simply identifying as a Christian and actually living as a disciple?
- Where do you see evidence that your love for Jesus is shaping your life?
- Which needs more attention right now: your love for God or the way that love is being expressed toward others?
- What is one specific way you can love someone differently this week?

This Week

Keep these two questions in front of you:

- How am I loving Jesus?
- How is my love for Jesus showing up in the way I love people?

CLOSING PRAYER