

## 2026-05-10 Small Group Guide

### Small Group Guide: Loving God and Others

#### Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by inviting God to speak to each person and help you apply His truth to your lives.

#### Icebreaker

Question: Share a time when someone showed you unexpected kindness or compassion when you really needed it. How did it impact you?

#### Key Takeaways from the Sermon

The Ten Commandments summarized: Jesus condensed all the commandments into two: Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, AND love your neighbor as yourself.

Selflessness vs. Selfishness: True Christian love requires dying to ourselves daily and putting others' needs before our own.

The Good Samaritan example: Compassion requires action, not just good intentions. The Samaritan didn't just feel sorry—he sacrificed time, resources, and convenience.

Eternal life requires sacrifice: To inherit eternal life, someone had to die (Jesus). To live the Christian life, we must die to ourselves daily.

Love isn't based on feelings: Loving God and others is a command, not dependent on convenience or emotion.

#### Discussion Questions

##### Understanding the Message

The pastor mentioned that loving God must come first before we can truly

love others. Why do you think this order is important? How does loving God enable us to love difficult people?

Read Luke 10:25-37 together. The religious leaders (priest and Levite) passed by the injured man. What might have been their reasons? What "reasons" do we use today to avoid helping people in need?

The Samaritan "took pity" on the wounded man—a deep, gut-level compassion. When was the last time you felt that kind of compassion for someone? What did you do (or not do) about it?

### Personal Reflection

The pastor challenged us to write down "How do I love myself?" and then consider if we love others the same way. Take a moment: What are 3-4 ways you show love to yourself? Are you extending that same care to others?

"Selflessness" was defined as the opposite of selfishness—being focused on others rather than yourself. On a scale of 1-10, how would you honestly rate your current level of selflessness? What's one area where you struggle most?

The sermon mentioned that we often have "good intentions but never follow through." Can you think of a recent example in your own life? What prevented you from taking action?

### Going Deeper

The pastor said, "We're spoiled rotten" as Americans and often just want to "get by" in our Christian walk. Do you agree? How does our culture's focus on comfort and convenience affect our ability to love sacrificially?

Jesus said we must "pick up our cross daily" and die to ourselves. What does that look like practically in your daily life—at home, work, or in your community?

The Good Samaritan helped someone who couldn't repay him and who he'd likely never see again. Who in your life or community needs help but has nothing to offer you in return? How might God be calling you to respond?

### Practical Application

This Week's Challenge: Choose ONE action step

#### Option 1: The Awareness Exercise

Each morning this week, pray: "God, bless my day and don't let me miss where I can bless others on Your behalf."

Keep a journal of opportunities you notice and how you respond.

#### Option 2: The Compassion Project

Identify one person in your life who is difficult to love or someone in need that you've been avoiding.

Do one specific act of kindness for them this week that costs you something (time, money, comfort, or convenience).

#### Option 3: The Self-Inventory

Complete the exercise mentioned in the sermon: List ways you show love to yourself.

For each item, write one way you could extend that same care to someone else.

Choose one to act on this week.

#### Option 4: The Family/Friend Focus

If your mother is still living, do something special to honor her sacrifice (not just on Mother's Day).

If you have children, talk with them about what it means to love others sacrificially and find a way to serve together.

Accountability Questions

What specific action are you committing to this week?

Who will you share this commitment with for accountability?

How can this group pray for you as you seek to love God and others more fully?

Closing Reflection

Read together: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." - John 13:34-35

Final thought: The world will know we are Christians not by our bumper stickers, church attendance, or political views, but by how we love one another—especially those who are hurting, different from us, or unable to repay us.

Closing Prayer

Pray for each person in the group by name, asking God to:

Increase their love for Him with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength

Give them eyes to see people in need

Provide courage to act with compassion, even when it's costly

Help them die to selfishness and live for others

For Next Week

Come prepared to share:

How your action step went

One way you saw God work through your obedience

One challenge you faced in trying to love sacrificially