

## 2026-05-17 Small Group Guide

### Small Group Guide: "Who Are We Stepping Over?"

#### Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to see people the way He sees them, and to give wisdom about how to respond to those in need around us.

#### Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Share a time when someone showed you unexpected kindness or generosity when you were in need. How did that experience impact you?

#### Key Scripture Passages

Mark 8:22-26 (Jesus healing the blind man)

Luke 16:19-31 (The rich man and Lazarus)

James 1:2-12 (Wisdom, trials, and perspectives on wealth)

#### Discussion Questions (40-50 minutes)

##### Seeing People Clearly

The pastor asked, "Do we see people as trees walking around?" When you're rushing through your daily routine, how aware are you of the people around you? What prevents you from truly "seeing" people?

Read Mark 8:22-26. Why do you think Jesus healed this man in two stages? What might this teach us about how we learn to see people the way God sees them?

##### The Story of the Rich Man and Lazarus

In Luke 16, Lazarus was literally at the rich man's gate. Who might God have placed "at your gate" – in your daily path, your neighborhood, your workplace? How do you typically respond?

The rich man had to have passed Lazarus repeatedly. Have you ever

intentionally avoided eye contact with someone in need? What were you afraid of or trying to avoid?

Abraham told the rich man: "In your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony." How does this challenge our cultural assumptions about wealth, poverty, and God's blessing?

### Examining Our Hearts

The pastor mentioned we often pray "woe is me" prayers. How much of your prayer life focuses on what you want versus what you truly need or what others need?

James 1:9-10 says the poor should take pride in their high position, and the rich should take pride in their humiliation. How does this turn our worldview upside down? What does this reveal about God's values versus society's values?

"Would we consider taking out a loan to help somebody in need?" This is a challenging question. What's your honest reaction to it? What does your answer reveal about your priorities?

### The Double-Minded Life

James 1:6-8 warns against being double-minded. In what areas of your Christian life might you be saying "Yes, Lord, I love you" but also "No, Lord, I won't do that"?

The pastor asked: "Would we really do anything Jesus would ask?" What would be the hardest thing for Jesus to ask you to do? Why?

### Key Takeaways

We often see people as obstacles rather than opportunities – God may providentially place people in our path for His purposes, both to bless them

and to teach us.

Wealth and poverty look different from heaven's perspective – earthly comfort doesn't equal God's favor, and earthly struggle doesn't equal God's displeasure.

God speaks through His Word, but we must be willing to listen and obey – even when it's uncomfortable or doesn't make sense to our natural thinking.

Generosity isn't about what we have left over – it's about recognizing that everything we have comes from God and holding it with an open hand.

Our eternal position is more important than our earthly position – how we respond to those in need reveals what we truly value.

Practical Applications (15-20 minutes)

This Week's Challenge: Choose at least one to commit to

Level 1: Awareness

Ask God each morning to help you truly "see" people throughout your day

When you encounter someone in need this week, pause and pray instead of immediately looking away

Keep a journal of people God brings across your path and how you responded

Level 2: Engagement

Make eye contact and speak to someone you would normally avoid

Learn the name of someone you see regularly but have never engaged with (homeless person, service worker, etc.)

Ask God specifically: "Who have you placed at my gate?"

Level 3: Action

Set aside a specific amount (even if small) to give to someone in need when

God prompts you

Invite someone who is lonely or struggling to share a meal with you

Volunteer at the church food pantry or another ministry serving those in need

Consider increasing your giving to God's kingdom by a specific percentage

Accountability Questions

Who will you share your commitment with?

How will you know if you're following through?

What obstacles might prevent you from following through, and how will you overcome them?

Reflection Questions for Personal Prayer

God, who am I stepping over in my daily life?

What am I holding onto that You want me to release?

How have I been comparing myself to others rather than seeking Your perspective?

Am I living with an open hand, ready to receive and give as You direct?

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Pray together for:

Eyes to see people as God sees them

Hearts that are sensitive to the Holy Spirit's prompting

Courage to engage with those in need rather than avoid them

Wisdom to know how and when to help

Freedom from the love of money and comfort

A genuine transformation from double-minded to single-minded devotion to Christ

For Next Week

Read the Good Samaritan parable (Luke 10:25-37) and come prepared to discuss: "Who is my neighbor, and what does it really cost to love them?"

"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." - James 1:12