

Small Group Guide: RETHINK HOW YOU'RE THINKING - Think Like Jesus

Opening Question If you could download one “skill” directly into your brain (like in a movie), what would you choose and why?

Opening Prayer *Father, thank you for bringing us together today. As we talk about “thinking like Jesus,” would you calm our minds and help us focus on you? Open our eyes to see what you want us to see, and our hearts to receive what you want to change in us. Help our conversation be honest, encouraging, and centered on Christ. In Jesus’ name, amen.*

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

- Your thoughts control your life, but you control your thoughts.
As a person thinks in their heart, so are they. Our life direction is shaped by our thought patterns, not just by our behavior.
- Thinking like Jesus starts with knowing who you are in Him.
Jesus was crystal clear about His identity (the “I am” statements). If we don’t root our identity in Christ, we will let other people or the world define us.
- God’s purpose is both general and personal.
Every believer is called to be “about the Father’s business”—to proclaim the good news and expand His kingdom. On top of that, God has specific, personal callings and assignments for each of us.
- We are never alone—God is with us.
Jesus often slipped away to be with the Father. Practicing God’s presence in prayer and Scripture is the remedy for loneliness and spiritual emptiness.
- We live for an audience of One, not to please everyone.
Trying to please everyone leads to confusion and frustration. Jesus aimed to please only the One who sent Him. We’re called to do the same.
- Loving like Jesus means sacrificing for others.
Jesus laid down His life for us, and we are called to lay down our lives for others in tangible, practical ways. Serving and giving aren’t optional add-ons; they’re central to following Jesus.
- Obedience is the proof of love.
Jesus came to do the Father’s will, not His own. Our obedience—even when it’s hard or costly—is our practical demonstration of love for God.
- Repentance (metanoia) is a change of mind that leads to a changed life.
To have the mind of Christ, we must allow God to change the way we think—from guilt to forgiveness, from purposelessness to purpose, from self-centeredness to God-centeredness.

Discussion Questions

1. **Read John 14:6 and John 10:11.**

- What do these “I am” statements tell us about how clear Jesus was on His identity and role?
- How does Jesus’ clarity about who He is challenge or encourage you in figuring out *who you are* in Him?

2. **Read Luke 2:49 and Luke 4:43.**

- What do these verses show about how early and how clearly Jesus understood His purpose?
- In what ways do you see the “Father’s business” and “proclaiming the good news” as part of *your* purpose, no matter your job or stage of life?

3. **Read Luke 5:16 and John 16:32.**

- What do we learn from Jesus’ pattern of “often” slipping away to pray?
- What gets in the way of you regularly connecting with God, and what could it look like for you to “practice His presence” this week?

4. **Read John 5:30.**

- What’s the difference between loving people and being a “people pleaser”?
- Where do you feel the most pressure to please others (family, work, social media, church, etc.), and how might focusing on pleasing God first change those situations?

5. **Read 1 John 3:16 and Mark 10:45.**

- According to these verses, how does the Bible define love and greatness?
- What is one practical way you could “lay down your life” this week (time, comfort, preferences, money) to serve someone else?

6. **Mind of Christ vs. Pattern of the World:** Pastor Dan referenced Romans 12:2 (not conforming to this world but being transformed by the renewing of our mind).

- When you think about our culture today, where do you see the strongest pressure to ‘conform to the world’ rather than think with the mind of Christ (for example, identity, success, relationships, comfort, etc.)?
- If someone wanted to experience a ‘metanoia’—a change of mind—in one of those areas, what might that practically look like? What kinds of shifts in thinking or habits would you expect to see?

7. **Read John 6:38 and Mark 14:36.**

- What kinds of situations in general do you think Christians find it hardest to pray, “Not my will, but Yours be done”?
- What are some examples of the kinds of steps of obedience that can feel uncomfortable or costly for believers today? Why do you think those seem challenging?
 - *(If the group is comfortable, you can add a soft follow-up like: “If anyone wants to share an area where this feels real for you right now, you’re welcome to—but no pressure.”)*

8. **From Inspiration to Transformation:** Pastor Dan warned that it’s worse to hear from God and do nothing than to not hear and do nothing.

- What are some common reasons people might feel God speaking to them—through Scripture, a sermon, or prayer—but then struggle to act on it?
- What have you seen help Christians move from just feeling “inspired” to actually being “changed” and taking action on what God shows them?
- As a Community Group, what are some practical ways we could help one another move from inspiration to transformation—without being intrusive or pressuring?

Practical Applications (Choose one or two.)

9. Identity in Christ Check-In

Write down 3 lies or negative labels you've believed about yourself (from others, the world, or your own thoughts). Then write 3 truths from Scripture about who you are in Christ (e.g., John 1:12; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 1). Pray through them each day.

10. Scheduled Slip-Away Time

Choose at least 3 times this week to "slip away" for 10–15 minutes like Jesus did—no phone, no noise—just Bible reading and prayer. Use Psalm 119:18 as your prayer: "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your word."

11. One Act of Sacrificial Service

Intentionally serve someone in a way that costs you something (time, energy, preference, or money). Do it anonymously if possible, simply as an act of love to Jesus.

12. Audience-of-One Decision

Identify one area where you've been driven by people-pleasing. This week, make one clear decision in that area that's based on pleasing God first—even if it risks disappointing someone else.

13. Pray "Not My Will" Daily

Each day this week, take one concrete situation (work, family, finances, future plans) and specifically pray: "Father, here's what I want... but more than anything, I want Your will, not mine. Show me what obedience looks like here."

Memory Verse for This Week

John 6:38 (NIV)

"I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me." (Jesus)

Closing Prayer *Lord Jesus, thank you for showing us what it looks like to live with a clear identity, a clear purpose, and a mind set on the Father's will. We confess that our thoughts often drift toward fear, selfishness, and people pleasing. Renew our minds this week. Help us to think your thoughts, love like you love, and obey what you show us. Give us courage to take the next steps you've put on our hearts tonight. We entrust ourselves to you. In your name we pray, amen.*