



Group Discussion Guide: Love People | January 22, 2023

Open with prayer (5 minutes).

Take a few minutes to acknowledge God's presence as you begin your group time. Ask Him to help your group have a good discussion and to help you internalize the Scriptures.

Break into smaller groups and debrief the sermon (30 minutes).

- If you had to define what a disciple is, what would your one sentence definition be?
- Do you see Jesus as your Rabbi (teacher) and yourself as His student? Why or why not? What has that looked like practically for you? What is something you've learned recently from Jesus? And how have you integrated it into your life?
- What does **Matthew 4:19** teach us about being a disciple of Jesus?
- **Read John 8:31-38, Matthew 28:18-20, 2 Timothy 2:1-2, Luke 9:23-24, and John 13:34-35.** What do these passages teach you about being Jesus' disciple? Plan to share your thoughts when you come back to your larger group.

Return to the large group for further conversation (40 minutes).

Select a few of these questions to help you discuss through the sermon. You may even come up with a few questions that would be good for your specific group to discuss.

- What did you learn from the passages you read? What stood out?
- What resonated with you from this sermon? What deepened your faith?
- Have you ever had something akin to a "discipleship" relationship? Maybe you were learning under a doctor, a more experienced teacher, or learning a trade under a master tradesman. What was that relationship like? How did that relationship help you build the skills you were seeking? How does that relate to this discussion on being Jesus' disciple?
- In this sermon, Emerson talked about how being a disciple of Jesus means being *with* Jesus, how this leads to a life of flourishing, and how God's presence is where we find strength, identity, encouragement, and power. When have you experienced this to be the case? What is preventing you from experiencing this more?
- Another aspect of being a disciple is *becoming* like Jesus. Emerson talked about how we're all in a process of becoming, the only question is whether we're becoming more



like Jesus or if we're becoming more like the world. If you were to list out the characteristics of Jesus, what sorts of qualities would you include?

- How do you discern the beliefs and practices you believe are because of your discipleship to Jesus and not because of cultural influence (family, friends, etc.)? When was a time your way of living was confronted as you pursued discipleship to Jesus? How did it feel? What did you do?
- Lastly, Emerson talked about how Jesus' disciples aim to do what Jesus did. Read **Matthew 4:23-25** in conjunction with **Luke 9:1-2**. What similarities do you see here? What sorts of things do you think disciples of Jesus should be doing today?
- How else did God speak to you from this message?

Finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes).

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.