

“SERVICE Group” Interactive Discussion Guide

This Week’s Core Practice: Single-mindedness—I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

SERVICE Focus: Spiritual Formation—We will assess regularly our growth as apprentices of Jesus Christ and encourage each other to set and achieve personal growth goals.

Option 1— The Closeness of Discipleship, [1 John 4:7-21](#)

(Plan 30 minutes for your “study time” by focusing on the * questions and filling out your discussion with the other questions. Be sure to leave time for sharing personal requests and praying for one another.)

Open It

1. Which do you think is a more powerful motivator—love, fear, or hate? Why?
2. What popular figure alive today or from history used hate to motivate people?
3. When have you been motivated by love?

Explore It

4. What were the readers of 1 John encouraged to do? ([4:7](#))
5. *What is the relationship between loving and knowing God? ([4:7-8](#))
6. How did God show His love? ([4:9](#))
7. Why did God send His Son? ([4:9](#))
8. What is love? ([4:10](#))
9. Why should Christians love one another? ([4:11](#))
10. What is the result of loving one another? ([4:12](#))
11. *How can believers know that they live in God and God lives in them? ([4:13](#))
12. What did John testify concerning? ([4:14](#))
13. What happens when we acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God? ([4:15](#))
14. Why is love important? ([4:16-17](#))
15. How is love made complete? ([4:17](#))
16. What does perfect love do? Why? ([4:18](#))
17. *Why should we love? ([4:19](#))
18. What is the relationship between loving God and loving one’s brother? ([4:20-21](#))

Get It

19. *How can we demonstrate our love for God?
20. What example has Jesus set for us to follow?
21. How should God’s love motivate you to love others?
22. How do you know that God lives in you?
23. What does it mean to live in God?
24. Why is it be easier to love God than other Christians?
25. *When you have difficulty loving other believers, what is it that makes it difficult?
26. *How can we demonstrate our love for others?
27. What are you afraid of?
28. How can we overcome our fears?
29. How does love drive out fear?

Apply It

30. Who is someone that you have a difficult time getting along with that you need to ask God to help you love this week?
31. What fear will you ask God to help you overcome?
32. *What specific steps will you take this week to demonstrate your love for another believer?

Option 2—Discussion of Sunday’s Sermon (slides posted on “Pastor’s Blog”)

- What significance does the passage/message have for you today?
- What does the passage/message mean to you?
- What does the passage/message affect your life?
- What can we learn about God, Christ, ourselves, our responsibility, our relationship to others?
- How does it reinforce this week’s core commitment?
- What do you want to do in response?
- What do we want to do in response?
- What will you take away from the sermon? From our group?

Option 3—Relate Your Study to Our Core Commitments

- What Core Commitment(s) does our study reinforce?
- What can we learn from this passage about this week’s Core Commitments?
- How can we live this passage individually? As a group?
- What do we agree to do in response to this passage?