

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Fall 2024 - Salty Church - "First In Love"
Monday, Sept. 30 - Sunday, Oct. 6 (Week 4)

EMPHASIS FOR THE MONTH: **Model Vulnerability.** As you are continuing to build relationships and trust within your group, my encouragement to you as leaders is to begin to model vulnerability. This will be essential for your group to begin to take steps towards going deeper with one another. If your group members see you "going there" they are more likely to follow your lead and, "go there" as well.

ICE BREAKER: Share a time when you felt deeply loved by someone. How did it impact you?

CAB ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. In place of weekly prayer gatherings for the month of October, we are encouraging everyone to take weekly walks around your neighborhood and pray for your neighbors and community. After Prayer Emphasis Month, we will begin to meet again for weekly prayer meetings in the month of November. We want to hear how your weekly prayer walks are going! Send us an email to info@churchatbergen.org and share your stories with us. *No weekly prayer gatherings at church for the month of October.
2. All men are invited to join our Men's Breakfast the first Saturday of every month at 9 AM, no sign up required! Join us this Saturday, October 5 at 9 AM here at church.
3. The first Saturday of every month, the CAB Run Club will meet at the Wild Duck Pond in Ridgewood for a 3 mile round-trip run. Whether you are a longtime runner or just starting out, we would love to have you join us! RSVP via our Monday email newsletter to let us know you plan on joining us, or just show up at 9 AM this Saturday, October 5.
4. Calling all Prime Timers (50+)! Your help is needed in solving a mystery! Come for a "Who Dunit?" Night on Saturday, October 12 at 6 PM at the church. Dinner will be provided, but please sign up via our Monday email newsletter to bring either a dessert or beverage. Come for fellowship, fun and a blessing as Pastor Mike McKinney shares with us from God's Word. Any questions? Please contact Kris Rienstra. RSVP deadline is this Thursday, October 3 with a minimum of 20 attendees needed. *PLEASE NOTE: an email thread / chat group has been created for future PrimeTimer's communication. If you have already attended an event in the past, your email address has already been added to that group. Know of someone who is not getting the emails? Please let Kris Rienstra know.
5. Our next Young-ish Gathering will take place on Saturday, October 19 at 11 AM. We will meet at Pennings Farm Market in Warwick, NY. Let us know you're coming via our Monday email newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact our Connections Director, Jackie Levesque. *Young-ish Gatherings are targeted to those aged 20's-30's.

PRAYER FOR DISCUSSION: Leader or Co-Leader prays for the discussion time. Pray that the The Holy Spirit would assist in the conversing, processing, and listening of the discussion.

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Fall 2024 - Salty Church - "First In Love"
Monday, Sept. 30 - Sunday, Oct. 6 (Week 4)

SERMON DISCUSSION TIME: Have someone read the passage: Luke 14:25-35, and then read this sermon summary to jog everyone's memory:

In week 1 of our brand new vision series, "Salty Church", we explore what it means to be a church where Jesus cannot be ignored - a salty church. Over the next 5 weeks, we set out to explore some essential traits of true disciples of Jesus: First In Love, Fearless Generosity, Freedom to Serve, Fishers of Men, Faithful in Prayer. In this sermon, Pastor McKinney initiates the series drawing from Luke 14:25-35. He emphasizes the need for correctly ordered loves, stating that true disciples must prioritize their love for Jesus above all else, even family. Through the concepts of the "turn," "test," and "taste," he explores the cost of discipleship and the necessity of genuine commitment to Christ. He challenges us to reconsider our priorities and whether we are truly willing to follow Jesus above all else, recognizing that true discipleship is costly but ultimately rewarding.

QUESTION #1: How do you currently prioritize your loves? What are the top three things you currently love most?

QUESTION #2: In what ways do you find it challenging to put Jesus first in your life?

QUESTION #3: Jesus said we must "hate" our family in comparison to our love for Him. How should we interpret this challenging statement? [CLICK HERE](#) for a great article that is helpful with this distinction and please pass it along to your group if you sense it would be helpful for them.

QUESTION #4: Have you ever had to make a significant sacrifice to follow Jesus? How did it impact your faith?

QUESTION #5: Have you ever had to make a significant sacrifice to follow Jesus? How did it impact your faith?

QUESTION #6: How do you feel when you hear that Jesus demands our highest affection? Does it bring comfort? fear? something else?

PRAY TOGETHER: Spend time taking **and recording** prayer requests and then pray together as a group (*I strongly encourage you to send out the prayer requests weekly to your group to keep everyone informed and in the loop on how to pray for one another throughout the week. This also makes it easier to check-in with people who have shared requests to see how the Lord has been working in their lives*).