

PERSONAL REFLECTION GUIDE

1/4/26

At Southland Church, we are committed to help you KNOW Christ, LIVE like Him, and make Him KNOWN. This guide is designed to help you reflect on and apply what you learned from the sermon this weekend. Use this guide as a quiet time this week. Write your answers in a journal, with the date and main passage noted at the top of the page.

- What main point from the sermon stood out to you? What did the Holy Spirit convict you of or encourage you with?
- How might someone outside of the Christian faith define "love"?
- **Read 1 John 4:7-21 slowly.** Notice/Circle the words that are repeated or that are key (important) words.
- What does the word "propitiation" mean? Look it up in a Bible dictionary online.
- How does God describe love in this passage? What actions or feelings define love?
- In verses 9-16, the life of the Trinity is described. What does the Father, Son, and Spirit each do in this passage? What can you learn about what it looks like to love from the way the Trinity operates here?
- What do you learn about God's character from the way love is described here?
- What do we learn about God's people – what we are to be/do? Where do you do this well? Where do you need to grow?
- How does Jesus' sacrifice shape your understanding of love toward others?
- Why is loving other believers inseparable from loving God?
- What would a community – a church – shaped by God's love look like? How can you contribute to shaping that community?
- Think about someone in your life who is difficult to love – a family member, coworker, etc. What makes it most difficult for you to love them?
- According to this text, how can you grow in your love for them?
- What is one small, concrete action you can take to reflect God's love this week?
- Based on this passage or the sermon, what is one step of obedience the Holy Spirit is leading you towards this week?

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK

Read John 13:34-35 What do you think makes this a "new command"?



UPCOMING EVENTS – for more info, scan the QR code with your phone
1/4 Southland Student Bible Study – 6-8pm at Pastor Josh's house
1/25 Southland Group Launch – Join a group right after church
1/30-31 Serve at Bethel Shelters – sign up online

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FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE

Southland Church is committed to helping parents raise the next generation of disciples who KNOW Christ, LIVE like Him, and make Him KNOWN. This guide is meant to help you as a family, particularly those over 12 years old, to discuss the Sunday sermon. You can do this in an evening devotion or over lunch after service.

A few tips to get started: (1) Make this a phone-free conversation. You and your family put the phones away, except for the person who looks up the Scriptures. He/She would read the passage and then put his/her phone away. (2) Set the pace for how vulnerable to be. If you give a shallow answer, you are more likely to get a shallow answer from your kids. (3) Do not feel like you have to ask all of these questions. Just focus on having a good honest discussion.

Open with prayer, asking God to lead you to know more about Christ and live like Him.

- What stood out to you from the sermon this week as challenging or encouraging?
- Who is someone in your life that makes you feel genuinely cared for? What do they do that shows it?
- **Read 1 John 4:7-21.** What words or ideas do you notice show up over and over in this passage?
- Look up the word “propitiation.” How would you explain it?
- What does this passage say love is? And what it is not?
- What verse seems confusing or challenging? *Use a study Bible to bring clarity.*
- How does Jesus show love differently than how people usually talk about love?
- Who do you find easiest to love? Why?
- Who is hardest for you to love? Why?
- Are there times when you say you love God but don’t show it in how you treat others? How so?
- Who is someone you need to show God’s love to this week? What is one small way you can show love to them?
- Is there a relationship where God might be asking you to take a step toward love?
- What do you want to thank God for after reading this passage?
- What is one thing God wants you to do or believe from these passages or the sermon?

Ask if there is some way you can pray for your family members, and then close in prayer.

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