

These Southland Group discussion guides are intended to guide you through the biblical text(s) from the weekend sermon. As a leader, your task is not to make it through every question here, but to help your group observe from, interpret, and apply the text to their lives. We will use the 5 W's and the HEAR acronym as a framework for you.

Sermon Series: Caring Community

Sermon Date: January 11, 2026

Main Idea: The followers of Jesus will be known for loving like Jesus.

WELCOME The goal is to get everyone talking. Approx 10 min

- *Option 1:* Share highs and lows from the week.
- *Option 2:* Ask: "Who taught you most about what love looks like – for better or worse? What did you learn from them?"

WORSHIP The goal is to humble your hearts before God. Approx 10 min

- *Option 1:* Have a group member (or you) share the gospel with the group to remember the work of Jesus.
- *Option 2:* Play "[From Whom All Blessings Flow](#)" by Hillsong Worship on YouTube. Encourage people to listen or sing if comfortable.

WORD The goal is to discuss God's Word together and apply it to your lives. Approx 50 min

Open in a word of prayer, inviting God to speak through His word and transform your hearts.

Have volunteers **read John 13:1-5 and 31-35.**

- **HIGHLIGHT** What does the text say? (5-10 min)
 - What is happening in this story? Why does this timing matter?
 - What words or ideas does Jesus repeat or emphasize here?
 - What words are confusing, if any? Use a study Bible to help define them
 - To whom was this passage written? And what is its purpose? (Read John 20:30-31)
- **EXPLAIN** What does this text mean? (20 min)
 - What did God intend to communicate in this passage? Why is this passage in the Bible?
 - What does God reveal about Himself here?
 - What does God reveal about people here? What are we to be/do?
 - What does it mean to love "as I have loved you"? What specific actions from Jesus' life come to mind?
 - How does Jesus define love here, and how is it different than kindness?
 - What do you think makes this commandment "new"?
 - **Read Galatians 6:10.** How is this verse related to and expound on the verses from John?

- **APPLY** How does this text apply today? (20 min)
 - Who is the hardest person (or type of people) for you to love in a Christlike way? Why?
 - What would it look like to practice Christlike love in your church as a whole? In this group? In your family? Be specific.
 - What habits or attitudes get in the way of you loving others as Jesus loves you?
 - If someone judged your faith only by how you love others, what conclusions might they draw about your faith? About Jesus?
 - What is one small way you can practice Christ's love in the church?
- **RESPOND** Pray, thanking God for what He revealed from the passage (5 min)

WANTS The goal is to share prayer requests and pray for one another. (Approx 20 min)

- *Option 1:* Break off into groups of 3-4 (same gender) to share prayer requests and pray for the person on your left. Encourage one another throughout the week by text. (LEADER NOTE: If doing this option, do WITNESS [below] before dividing.)
- *Option 2:* Share prayer requests as a large group and pray for the person on your left.

WITNESS The goal is to get people thinking about others outside of the group. Approx 5 min

- *Option 1:* Who is one person in your life who needs to hear and receive the Gospel? How can you make sure to share with him/her?
- *Option 2:* How can we know when it is time to multiply this group?

LEADER REMINDERS

- Reach out to at least one group member to encourage them in their walk with Jesus.
- Identify at least one potential leader in your group and ask them to help you lead one part of the group.

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

- **EQUIP CLASS: Financial Peace University** – starting Jan 15 on Thursday evenings to help people learn to manage finances and get out of debt. Cost is \$80 per family to cover materials. Register at southlandsc.org/events
- **GROUP LAUNCH Jan 25** – contact Josh at josh@southlandsc.org to let him know if your group is full or has room to add more people. Be available on the Sunday after service to help people connect to your (or other) groups
- **SERVE OPPORTUNITY:** Bethel Shelters on January 30 or 31. Register online at southlandsc.org/events