

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: February 1, 2026

Main Idea: A caring community follows Jesus and helps others do the same.

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

- *Option 1:* Share highs and lows from the week.
- *Option 2:* Ask: "What makes a group (team, friend group, church) feel like somewhere you actually want to belong?"

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 "[Christ Be Magnified](#)" by Cody Carnes 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.

- What main point from the sermon stood out to you? What did the Holy Spirit convict you of or encourage you with?

Have a volunteer **read Acts 2:42-47**.

- **HIGHLIGHT** What does the text say? (5-10 min)
 - What happened right before this story? Why does this timing matter?
 - What words or ideas are repeated or emphasized here?
 - What words are confusing, if any? Use a study Bible to help define them
 - What does the word "devote" mean? What activities do these believers devote themselves to?
 - How does Luke describe the mood or attitude of this community?
- **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?
 - Why do you think this type of community is important for believers?
 - How does sharing possessions - as in this passage - reflect the gospel?
 - Is it possible to grow in the Christian faith apart from other Christians? Why/why not?

- **APPLY** How does this text apply today? (20 min)
 - What keeps Christians today from living this openly and generously?
 - How much time do you think the average Christian spends helping others to follow Jesus?
 - Which practices do we as a community do well? Which ones do we need to grow in?
 - Who is helping you to live like Jesus right now? Who are you helping to live like Jesus?
 - What's one practical way you could practice generosity or discipleship (helping others to follow Jesus) this week?
 - If we live in an Acts 2 way, how might that impact people who don't yet follow Jesus?
- **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:* What about throwing a Super Bowl party (Feb 8) as a group and inviting non-believing friends?

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

- **PARENT EQUIP:** February 1, 6-7pm – Learn from Josh about how to study the Bible and lead your family in devotions. Register online.
- **CHURCH POTLUCK:** February 22 – bring a side dish to share after service
- **FAMILY EQUIP.** March 1, 4-5:30pm – Parents and kids (5th grade and under) learn from Elise Fraser, author of *Serving Made Simple*, how to serve those in need as a family. Kids are welcome and encouraged to attend with their parents.