



Sermon Discussion Guide

Love Walked Among Us: Redemptive Love

Luke 7:36-40; Mark 3:1-6

April 24 & 25, 2021

Part 1: Pray

The primary goal for our Life Group meetings is to experience Jesus in our midst in his presence and power. We want him to be at work by His Spirit ministering to us and through us to one another so that people are cared for and encouraged to lead God-pleasing lives. Ask God to reveal his truth in this passage to transform you through your discussion time.

Part 2: Read the Text

Read the passage(s) from the sermon. Keep a focus on key words, repeated phrases or major themes.

Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon

Introduction

1. When we encounter the real Jesus, we are often surprised, because Jesus is not always who we think he is. How has our current sermon series challenged or corrected the way you think of Jesus? What has surprised you?

Learning to Love: Honest Love.

James 1:19; James 1:26; Proverbs 10:11a; Matthew 7:3-5

1. Why is truth-telling an essential part of love? What might be some of the consequences of failing to speak truth in your relationships? Have any of you experienced some of these consequences?

2. Lori Gottlieb writes, “[Our well-meaning friends say] Yes, this is so wrong! They are so wrong! You are better off without him. Idiot compassion feels so delicious! We tell our version of the story and they have compassion for us in a way that does not question our story. They take our side; it feels good but it does not help us. It is not healing. Wise compassion tells us what we need to hear, patiently holding up a mirror...so that we can see something about ourselves that we’ve not been willing to see.”

Do you find that you more often give idiot compassion or wise compassion to your friends and family? Why do you think that is?

3. Though we are called to be truth-tellers, too often, we weaponized the truth. What are some ways people (including yourself) use truth as a weapon?
4. To tell the truth redemptively, we must first hear the truth about ourselves. Only then can we approach others humbly with the truth, confessing our own sin first. Have you ever been on the receiving end of this kind of redemptive truth-telling? How did the posture of the other person affect how you received them?
5. Ray said that we must be as committed to affirmative truth as we are to critical truth. Do you make it a point to encourage other people with affirmative truth? Who do you know who needs affirmative truth spoken to them right now?

Learning to Love: Angry Love.

Mark 10:13-14; John 2:14-17

1. What are the things that make you angry on a regular basis? What were the things that made Jesus angry?

2. Does the thought of Jesus being angry make you uncomfortable? How is Jesus' anger redemptive?

3. Loving like Jesus means not stomaching and accepting injustice but wading into the world's mess and brokenness. Where is God asking you to sacrificially love the powerless? What are the things that motivate you? What are you passionate about?

Part 4: Summarize the Message

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion?

How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow Jesus?