



## **Sermon Discussion Guide**

*Love Walked Among Us: Dependence*

John 5:19, 20; John 7:2-6, 8-9; Luke 18:9; John 12:49; 2 Corinthians 1:8-9; Luke 5:15-16; Matthew 6:9-10; Matthew 24:35

May 8 & 9, 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. Rebecca Pippert writes, "Whatever controls you is really your god. The one who seeks power is controlled by power. The one who seeks acceptance is controlled by the people he or she wants to please. We do not control ourselves. We are controlled by whatever is the lord of our life."

What do you think controls you? Take a moment and reflect on this question. Feel free to share if you feel comfortable doing so.

*Dependence: The Person of Jesus.*

John 5:19, 30; John 7:2-6, 8-9

1. How do you typically view dependence? Is it a good thing, or a bad thing? How does this compare with how Jesus viewed dependence?
2. Can you think of a time in your life when you “loved” someone else for self-motivated reasons? What were the reasons? How can we tell when we are “loving” others for selfish reasons?
3. What keeps Jesus from self-motivated love? What is his “secret” to love?

*Dependence: The Problem.*

Luke 18:9; John 12:49; 2 Corinthians 1:8-9

1. Radio host Robin Quivers writes, “What I learned is very simple: that your life belongs to you. And it doesn’t matter what you do with it, but it should be what you want to do with it. Not what your parents, friends or culture want. It should be ‘I’ directed. And that is the meaning of life.”

How does this quote illustrate the fundamental barrier between us and loving well? What is it that pollutes our love?

2. Why is it that Jesus said that the sexually broken and sinners are entering the kingdom of God ahead of the religious leaders? What do they understand that the religious leaders do not?
3. Where in your life are you trusting in your own goodness instead of God? Where might you be relying on your own merits instead of on God?

4. God often brings hardships into our lives to challenge our self-reliance and teach us to rely on him. Can you think of examples from your own life of how God has used suffering to break your self-will?

*Dependence: The Power.*

Luke 5:15-16; Matthew 6:9-10; Matthew 24:35

1. Prayer is not only about bringing our needs and requests to God but surrendering our wills and desires to him. It is not about “strong arming” him into doing what we want, but about asking him to help us want what he wants. Does this challenge the way you think about prayer? How might this change the way you pray?
2. God give us not only prayer but Scripture to help shape us. It is the way he speaks to us. How have you seen Scripture shape and change you? Where has it been “sinking in” and changing the way you act and think?

**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?