



Sermon Discussion Guide

Love Walked Among Us: Radical Love

Matthew 4:1-10

May 15 & 16, 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. If we want to learn to love, we have to deal with what theologian Carl Trueman calls “the triumph of the modern self.” What is this problem of the modern self? Can you think of examples from popular culture that preach this gospel of the self-trust?

Love Requires: A Radical “No” To Self.

Philippians 2:5-8a; Matthew 16:24-26a

1. In his encounter with Satan in the wilderness, three times, Jesus says “no” to self. What three things is Jesus saying “no” to (or what is at the root of each temptation)? Which of these three temptations do you personally struggle with the most in your own life?

2. In an interview at the height of her career, when asked what she still had left to achieve, singer Mariah Carey answered, “happiness.” Why is it that the most successful people in the world still lack happiness? In your own life, what things have you found that truly satisfy you, and what things have been disappointments?

3. Ray gave an example of how he decided to never play the lottery, saying, “Why would I flirt with something that would destroy me?” Are there areas in your life where you are flirting (or have in the past) with things that might lead to your destruction?

4. How is saying “no” to self the key to radical love?

Love Requires: A Radical “Yes” to Selfless Serving.

Mark 10:45; Mark 9:35

1. Radical love entails selfless serving and humility. Who is somebody in your own life who embodies this type of radical love?

2. Some have referred to the Kingdom of God as “upside down,” because it goes completely against the values of this world. How does Jesus’ radical love turn things “upside down” (Hint: look at Mk. 9:33-35; Mt. 18:2-3; Mt. 20:24-28; Luke 22:24-26; John 13:4-5)?

3. Jesus calls us to a completely different way of doing life. How might following Jesus in saying “yes” to selfless serving disrupt your life?

4. If you are still working, what are some concrete ways you can serve God and others in your current job? If you are retired, what are some areas where you can use your gifts to serve God and others?

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?