

gracepoint

A M E T H O D I S T C H U R C H

Homegroup material



I. Introductory Discussion Questions

1. What stood out for you most about the “Love Life” sermon?
2. Would you say that you “love life” right now? Why or why not?
3. Read John 10 vs 1-10. What do you think Jesus meant when He said He came to give us abundant life?

- John 10 vs 1-10:

“Truly, truly, I say to you, He who does not enter into the sheepfold by the door, but going up by another way, that one is a thief and a robber. But he who enters in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. The doorkeeper opens to him, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he puts forth his own sheep, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him. For they know his voice. And they will not follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers. Jesus spoke this parable to them, but they did not understand what it was which He spoke to them. Then Jesus said to them again, Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters in by Me, he shall be saved and shall go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal and to kill and to destroy. I have come so that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

4. What do you think is preventing you from living an abundant life at present?
5. How can you overcome these obstacles?

II. Love extravagantly

1. One of the first keys to living an abundant life is to love extravagantly. In your opinion, what does this mean?
2. What is one way in which you can practically love beyond your comfort zones right now?
3. In order to really love others, we must risk being vulnerable. Read and reflect on the following quote by C.S. Lewis. How do you think we can learn to be vulnerable enough to really love, while still guarding our hearts and being wise (Proverbs 4:23)?

"To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable." – C.S. Lewis – *The Four Loves*

4. Read 1 Corinthians 13 vs 1-8. Which aspects of this true love do you need to work on so as to truly reflect God's love and character to those around you?

- **1 Corinthians 13 vs 1-8:**

"If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

III. Invest in people

1. How do you think you can better invest in those around you?
2. A Christ-follower is by definition, a servant. How are you serving those around you at present?
3. How do you think serving others leads to living a more abundant life?
4. Who in your life do you need to invest in more in terms of:
 - Spending time with them?
 - Forgiving them?
 - Accepting them?
 - Serving them?
 - Giving sacrificially to them?
 - Appreciating them?

IV. Fight Evil

1. Read the following Scriptures. What do they reveal to you about our battle against evil?

- **Proverbs 8 vs 13:**

“To honour the LORD is to hate evil...”

- **Jeremiah 17 vs 9:**

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

- **Romans 12 vs 9:**

“Love must be completely sincere. Hate what is evil, hold on to what is good.”

- **Romans 12 vs 21:**

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

- **James 4 vs 7-10:**

“Therefore submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners; and purify your hearts, double-minded ones. Be afflicted, and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to heaviness. Be humbled before the Lord, and He will lift you up.”

- **1 Peter 5 vs 8:**

“Be sensible and vigilant, because your adversary the Devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking someone he may devour...”

2. Do you actively, purposefully battle evil in your daily life? How?

3. How do you think we should be engaging and battling with evil?

4. Our battle against evil is really an internal battle within our own hearts. Why do you think we tend not to confront the evil and sin within us?

5. We cannot live a truly abundant life unless we are willing to deal decisively from the sin and wickedness within us. What is one area of sin in your life that is preventing you from living abundantly right now and what will you do about it? If you are willing, share this with the group and commit to holding one another accountable.

V. Explore your faith

1. Take stock of your spiritual journey for a moment. How do you feel you are doing at present? Do you feel like you are moving forward? Why or why not?
2. How long have you been at this point in your spiritual journey and what do you think the next step is for you?
3. Do you think the fruit of the Spirit is manifested in your life? Which of these are most evident in you, and which are most absent? (Galatians 5 vs 22-23)
 - Love
 - Joy
 - Peace
 - Patience
 - Kindness
 - Goodness
 - Faithfulness
 - Gentleness
 - Self-control
4. What are your spiritual gifts?
5. Are you operating in the gifts of the Spirit at present? How are you using them?
6. How are you doing in terms of your spiritual disciplines at present? (Prayer, reading the Word, study, tithing / giving, fasting, serving, etc.)
7. What is the spiritual discipline with which you struggle most?
8. Which one comes most easily to you?
9. How do you think you can be more disciplined in your spiritual journey?
10. What do you think is preventing you from moving forward in your relationship with God? How can you deal decisively with this issue?

VI. Call to action

1. What will we do with what we have discovered in this session?
2. How will we hold each other accountable to this?