

Fall 2020 Week 1 John 13:31-38

Key Objective: Create a welcoming and authentic environment (online or face to face)!

Key tasks week 1:

1. Email all participants with any logistics (or meeting link) and contact info – in case they get lost.
2. Pray for each group member, that God would knit you together into caring, authentic community.
3. Clarify expectations and cast vision using the Group Commitment and fielding questions.
4. Pray for grace and unity as you share covid expectations regarding masks, distancing etc.

RECOMMENDED FLOW (First Night)

In Person

20 minutes	welcome / snack & schmooze
5 minutes	transition into meeting area
20 minutes	Introduce yourself & other leaders, review group commitment & field questions
30 – 60 min.	Interact with the digging deeper questions below.
15 min.	Review any logistics for next meeting, welcome any prayer requests, invite people to pray
<u>End on time</u>	If people want to linger or visit, fine, but end the official group meeting on time

Online

Below is for 60 minute group. 75 minute is probably a max, but doable. Adjust to taste

15 minutes	welcome & have everyone introduce themselves using the my story question below
10 minutes	review group commitment & field questions
15 minutes	Discuss 1 or 2 of the digging deeper questions below
15 minutes	Welcome prayer requests and invite people to pray for each other if comfortable.
5 minutes	Review logistics for next meeting. Get permission to share contact info with the group
<u>End on time</u>	Offer to linger online if anyone would like to chat privately

My Story

Get acquainted by responding briefly to the questions below.

- *Briefly introduce yourself sharing NAME, WHERE YOU GREW UP, ANY NICKNAMES, & HIGH POINT OF THE SUMMER.*

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What caught your attention from John the weekend message?
2. John 13:31-38. What words would you use to describe the way Jesus has loved you? What feelings rise up as you consider Jesus love? How have you grown in understanding Jesus love & loving him back? How does your love relationship with Jesus anchor you amidst the grind?
3. Imagine you got reviews (think of internet reviews) from other believers about the way you demonstrate your love for them – how many stars would you get? What would show up in the comments? How could you grow in putting your love for Jesus into action by loving others?
4. Verse 35 – Why would Jesus say this? How does the way we love prove our discipleship?

Next Steps / Living It Out

Interact with the following questions, and then spend some time praying for each other. In smaller groups.

- Where have you sensed God working in or around your life? What is God speaking to you as a result of this message & group time? How will you say yes to obey? How can the group pray for you?*

SERMON SUMMARY... **Big Idea: Love is how we thrive in the grind.**

Our love is rooted in Christ, our love grows with Christ, our love is seen in action!