



## Northland Christian Church

### Group Discussion Guide For the Week of July 31, 2022

*Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & patient, humble support.*

### Connect

- If you could do last week over, what would you do differently?
- If you were asked to give a TED talk, what topic would you speak on? Why?

### Context

Jesus continues His departure instructions for the disciples in John 15. After teaching them that He is the true vine they must be rooted in, that all who are rooted in Him will produce fruit, and that His Father the Gardener intimately cares for the branches rooted in the True Vine, He begins to give them a fuller picture of the type of fruit that will be produced from a well-connected and attached life. A life of sacrificial and Jesus-like love. He lets them know that what will separate them from everything else in the world, what will make the biggest difference in the world, is loving like Jesus. How does this apply to us today? What does that look like for us in our day and time?

### Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Observations, Surprises, and Takeaways from:

#### **John 15:9-13** NIV

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

### Discuss

1. Who is the most loving person you know? What about them makes you think this?
2. How would you define love?
3. How does Jesus define love in this passage?

4. Why is love the best evidence that we are apprentices of Jesus?
5. What comes to mind when you think about someone “laying down their life for one’s friend”?
6. When have you experienced someone laying down their life for you?
7. How have you seen someone lay down their life for someone else?
8. How do “remaining in the love of Jesus”, the joy of Jesus, and loving others influence one another?
9. How might real Jesus-like love make a difference in our community? In your workplace? Home?  
Where has Jesus placed you to share this love - and how can you show that love this week?
10. What could loving by “laying down your life for others” practically look like this week?
11. Where did you see the love of Jesus this past week? Today?
12. What makes you feel most loved?
13. What do you admire most about the people in your life who have inspired you?

### **Weekly Challenge**

14. Who is someone in your daily circles that you could love and serve in a creative way this week? How might you do that? Commit to do this and then ask someone in your group to follow-up with you next week.

### **End Your Group Time in Prayer**

