

## **DIGGING DEEPER:**

### **Live It Out – Learning to Love Like Jesus**

#### **BUILDING FAITH BEYOND SUNDAYS**

At Northland, we know faith grows best when it is lived out every day, not just on Sundays. This guide is designed to help you, your family, and your small group carry the weekend's message into your week. Whether you are around the dinner table, on a walk, or gathered in your group, use these tools to keep the conversation going and grow deeper in loving God and loving others.

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#### **THE MAIN THEME**

Jesus calls us to a love that is far greater than feelings. It is action. In Luke 10:25–37, the Parable of the Good Samaritan shatters our tendency to limit love to people who are like us or convenient to help. Real love is inconvenient, boundary breaking, and often costly. It goes beyond good intentions and steps into tangible action. Jesus' challenge is clear: stop asking "Who is my neighbor?" and start asking "How can I be a neighbor?"

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#### **DIGGING DEEPER...**

When Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan, He deliberately chose a hero who would shock His audience, a Samaritan despised by Jews for both racial and religious reasons. In doing so, He exposed how self-justifying our love can become. Love, in Jesus' definition, interrupts our schedules, crosses cultural lines, and demands personal sacrifice. This is the kind of love that makes the Gospel visible.

The world is watching to see if Christians will love in a way that stands out. When we slow down enough to see needs, when we help people who are different from us, and when we give of ourselves even when it is costly, we embody the radical love of Christ. This is what it means to truly live it out.

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#### **WHAT NOT TO MISS...**

- **Love Goes Beyond the Minimum** – Stop asking "Who do I have to love?" and start asking "How can I love the person in front of me?" (Luke 10:25–29)

- **Love Interrupts Your Agenda** – Compassion often comes at inconvenient times; do not let busyness override love. (Luke 10:30–32)
- **Love Crosses Boundaries** – We are called to love people who do not look, think, or believe like we do. (Luke 10:33)
- **Love Costs You Something** – Real love often requires time, money, and emotional investment. (Luke 10:34–35)
- **Love Is Action, Not Intention** – Love is proved by what we do, not what we say we will do. (Luke 10:36–37)
- **Slow Down and See People** – Notice the people God places in your path.
- **Cross a Line for Love** – Intentionally reach out to someone different from you.
- **Do Something That Costs You** – Give time, resources, or energy to meet a real need this week.

## LIFE APPLICATION...

Living out Jesus' kind of love is rarely convenient, but it is always transformational. This week, look for opportunities to step beyond your comfort zone. Choose to notice people instead of rushing past them. Interrupt your own schedule to meet someone's need. Give in a way that costs you something, whether time, resources, or energy. In doing so, you will not only impact others, but you will grow into the kind of neighbor Jesus calls you to be.

## VERSE OF THE WEEK

**Luke 10:37** – *“The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”*

**Family/Group Use:** Keep this verse visible this week on a fridge, mirror, or phone background and let it be your action reminder. Mercy is love in motion.

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think the expert in the law wanted to “justify” himself when asking Jesus who his neighbor was?
2. How have you seen people limit the definition of “neighbor” in today's world?
3. Which part of the Good Samaritan story challenges you the most?
4. How can busyness or personal priorities get in the way of loving others?
5. Share a time when someone “crossed a boundary” to show you love.
6. Why do you think Jesus made the hero of the story a Samaritan?
7. What does costly love look like in your life right now?
8. How can you show love this week to someone very different from you?

9. Which is harder for you, slowing down to see needs or acting when you see them? Why?
  10. What would your neighborhood, workplace, or church look like if everyone “went and did likewise”?
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## **THIS WEEK’S CHALLENGE**

Choose one tangible act of love this week that interrupts your routine, crosses a line of comfort, and costs you something. Do it without expecting anything in return, simply because that is what Jesus would do.

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## **DAILY DEVOTIONALS**

### **MONDAY – Faith That Acts**

READ: James 2:14–17

REFLECT: Faith without action is empty. Real faith expresses itself in love.

RESPOND: Who is one person you can tangibly help today? Do it before the day ends.

### **TUESDAY – Love Without Limits**

READ: Matthew 5:43–48

REFLECT: Jesus calls us to love even our enemies. This is radical, God-shaped love.

RESPOND: Pray for someone you find difficult to love. Ask God for an opportunity to show them kindness this week.

### **WEDNESDAY – Slowing Down to See**

READ: Matthew 9:35–38

REFLECT: Jesus noticed people, had compassion, and met their needs.

RESPOND: Set aside 15 minutes today to be intentionally present and aware of people around you.

### **THURSDAY – Crossing the Line**

READ: Galatians 3:26–28

REFLECT: In Christ, all human barriers come down. We are one family.

RESPOND: Connect with someone outside your usual circle and learn part of their story.

## **FRIDAY – The Cost of Love**

READ: 1 John 3:16–18

REFLECT: Love is laying down our lives in practical ways for others.

RESPOND: Give something of value, time, energy, or resources to meet a real need today.

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## **SMALL GROUP LEADERS**

### **FACILITATOR TIPS**

1. Keep the conversation rooted in Scripture but allow personal stories to bring the passage to life.
2. Challenge your group to not just discuss but commit to a specific action step this week.
3. Celebrate stories next week of how members lived out the challenge.

### **PRAYER POINTS**

- **CONNECT:** Thank God for His love and ask for open eyes to see people in need.
- **CARE:** Pray for opportunities to meet practical needs in your community.
- **CULTIVATE:** Ask God to grow a lifestyle of active, selfless love in your group.
- **COMMISSION:** Pray for boldness to cross boundaries with the Gospel in both word and deed.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for showing us what real love looks like through Jesus. Help us to see people the way You see them, to stop when others are in need, and to love even when it costs us something. Give us courage to cross boundaries and compassion to act without hesitation. May our love point others to You this week. Amen.