

THE WAY

STUDY GUIDE

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE?

For each sermon, we want to provide questions you can use in small groups, family discussions, or as you are hanging out with your friends. Here are some steps for getting the most out of each series :

- Spend time prayerfully reading over the Main Idea, Message Overview, and Scripture references for the week.

- Use question #1 from the discussion guide as more of an ice breaker to get the group discussion going.

- Utilize the framework of the other questions to facilitate engagement with the scripture and group discussion.

- Utilize the concluding sections to encourage and challenge your people to act upon what they've learned in their study of the scripture.

THE WAY STUDY GUIDE

Week 1 – May 31, 2026:

"With Love" – John 13:34–35

Optional Opening Question : How did it go with last week's next step? (If one was shared the previous week)

Big Idea: Sacrificial love required a sacrifice.

Message Overview: In a standoff with religious leaders hell-bent on trapping Jesus in His words, Jesus declared that all the Law and Prophets could be summed up in obedience to two commands: Love God and love your neighbor as yourself. But here, Jesus ups the ante. The "new command" He gives is to love one another in the same way that Jesus loved. This is a love filled with both grace and truth, patience and accountability, kindness and clarity. This kind of love is selfless and sacrificial, often costing the one who extends it while also proving submission and surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ who demonstrated His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, He died for us all.

Main Scripture: John 13:34–35

Supporting Scriptures: John 15:12–17; 1 John 2:7–11; Leviticus 19:17–18

Cont : Talk through these questions with your Life Group, your family and friends or others who are growing with you in knowing Jesus more.

Discussion:

1. **Think of a time when someone loved you with both truth and grace.** How did that kind of love impact you, and what made it meaningful or transformative in your life?

2. **Read John 13:34–35 and John 15:12–17.** How does Jesus define the way believers are to love one another, and what does this reveal about the depth, posture, and intention of His love? As you consider His call to love as He has loved, what might it require you to lay down, your comfort, preferences, pride, or self-protection, in order to love others in that same way?

3. **In John 13:34–35, Jesus says that the defining mark of His disciples will be the way they love one another.** What stands out to you about Jesus choosing love as the evidence of a life shaped by Him? What does this reveal about the kind of transformation Jesus desires to produce in us, and how might the presence or absence of love in our relationships reveal more about our walk with Him than we may want to admit?

4. **Read Leviticus 19: 17–18.** How does harboring resentment or avoiding honest conversations keep us from truly loving others the way God calls us to? What might it look like to practice love that includes both truth and grace?

5. **In 1 John 2:7–11, love and hate are contrasted as light and darkness. What stands out to you about this contrast?** What does it reveal about how our relationships reflect our true spiritual condition? And how might the way we love or fail to love other believers reveal areas where we are not fully walking in the light?

6. **From Leviticus 19:17–18 and 1 John 2:7–11, what do these passages reveal about how seriously God views the way we love others?** In what ways might a lack of love, even in subtle forms like resentment, indifference, or avoidance, be quietly shaping our walk with Him?

7. **In John 15:12–17, Jesus models love through sacrifice and obedience.** Where in your life is your love limited because it hasn't yet cost you anything, and what might it look like to step into sacrificial love?

Mark of a Disciple: Believe in Jesus, Choose Community, Live as an Ambassador

Respond in Prayer

Take a moment and pray through John 13:34–35. Thank the Lord for His sacrificial love and for the way He has loved you with grace, truth, patience, and mercy. Ask Him to help you receive His love more deeply and to shape your heart to love others in the same way. Pray that your life would reflect the kind of love that points others to Jesus, and ask God to reveal any areas where pride, resentment, or self-protection may be keeping you from loving others as He has called you to.

Next Step

Start this week with reflection. Spend time this week reflecting on how Jesus has loved you. Sit with John 13:34–35 or John 15:12–13 and thank Him for His sacrificial love. Ask God to help you live from being loved, not just trying to love. Then take one step toward sacrificial love. This might look like initiating a hard but loving conversation, offering forgiveness, giving your time, or choosing patience when it's uncomfortable.

Week 2 – June 7, 2026:

"With Humility" – 1 Peter 5:5

Optional Opening Question : How did it go with last week's next step? (If one was shared the previous week)

Big Idea: Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less.

Message Overview: It could be argued that the two primary indicators of a life surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ are holiness and humility. The longer we walk with the Lord, the more holy we should become as His Spirit sanctifies, refines, and conforms us to the image of Christ. And at the very same time, the longer we walk with the Lord, the same humble mindset of Christ Jesus, hi-lighted in **Philippians 2,** becomes the primary forward-facing posture of our heads, hearts, and hands toward other people. We are never more like Christ as when we embody a Gospel-centered posture of humility. We are never more like satan as when we forsake the humility of Christ Jesus.

Main Scripture: 1 Peter 5:5

Supporting Scripture: Philippians 2:1-11; James 4:1-10; John 13:1-16

Content: Talk through these questions with your Life Group, your family and friends or others who are growing with you in knowing Jesus more.

Discussion:

1. **Think of a time when you saw someone demonstrate genuine humility.** What about it stood out to you, and how did it influence or challenge you?

2. **Read 1 Peter 5:5. What stands out to you about the call to "clothe yourselves with humility"?** What does it look like to put on humility, and why do you think it matters so much to God?

3. According to this scripture, why do you think God opposes pride but responds to humility with grace? What does this reveal about the posture He desires from us?

4. **Have someone read Philippians 2:1–11**. What do you notice about the depth of Jesus' humility, and how does His example challenge the way you view and practice humility in your own lives?

5. **As you read James 4:1–10, what do you notice about how pride and self-centered desires lead to conflict and distance from God?** How does this connect with the truth that God gives grace to the humble?

6. **In John 13:1–16, Jesus, fully secure in His identity, chose to take on the role of a servant and humble Himself in the lowest way.** What does this reveal about the connection between a secure identity and a life marked by humility? In what ways might insecurity, pride, or a need for recognition keep us from serving others like Jesus, and what would it look like to truly rest in who we are in Him so that humility becomes our natural response?

7. If God gives grace to the humble and Jesus modeled humility through surrender and service, what might be keeping you from fully walking in humility, and what would it look like to lay that down?

Mark of a Disciple: Believe in Jesus, Choose Community, Serve the Cause

Respond in Prayer

Take a moment and pray through 1 Peter 5:5. Thank the Lord for the humility of Jesus and for the grace He gives to the humble. Ask Him to reveal any areas of pride, self-protection, or desire for recognition that may be shaping your heart more than you realize. Pray that God would help you clothe yourself with humility and rest securely in your identity in Christ. Ask Him to form in you the mindset of Jesus, so that your thoughts, words, and actions would reflect a life marked by surrender, service, and grace toward others.

Next Step

Start this week by taking a moment to pray through 1 Peter 5:5. Ask God to help you intentionally clothe yourself with humility in your thoughts, words, and actions. Throughout the week, be intentional to listen more, respond with gentleness, and consider others above yourself in your conversations and interactions. As you do, ask God to shape your heart to reflect the humility of Jesus and to help you serve others with a posture of grace and surrender.

Week 3 – June 14, 2026:

"With Hospitality" – 1 Peter 4:9–11

Optional Opening Question: How did it go with last week's next step?

Big Idea: Hospitality unlocks the joy of the Lord

Message Overview: One of the most convoluted ideas that has pervaded the modern Christian church is that the giftings of individual followers of Jesus are meant to be used in the service, or for the benefit, of the one who possesses the gift. The Scriptures paint a picture far different from this misconception. The purpose of an individual's gift is joyful hospitality—sacrificially employing the God-given gift in the service of others. Joyful hospitality toward "one another" (horizontal reconciliation) is a direct result of a vertically reconciled heart and is near to the heart of the Father.

Main Scripture: 1 Peter 4:9–11

Supporting Scripture: Hebrews 13:1–3; Luke 12:35–48

Content: Talk through these questions with your life group, family and friends or others who are growing with you in knowing Jesus more.

Discussion:

1. **Share a time when someone in your life showed you hospitality?** What do you remember about how they put aside their own needs to make yours a priority? How did that experience make you feel?

2. **Read 1 Peter 4:9–11.** What posture does the scripture call us to when showing hospitality? Why does that posture matter to God, us, and to those we serve?

3. According to this scripture, how can we be faithful stewards of God's grace? Why do you think God wants to involve us in this way? Who ultimately receives praise and glory when we use our gifts this way—and why does that matter?

4. **Read Hebrews 13:1–3. Hospitality means "love of strangers" in Greek.** How is this way of living reflected in these verses? What are other ways we can love strangers? What makes loving strangers difficult in our culture today?

5. **Read Luke 12:35–48.** What is the connection between being ready for Jesus' return and being ready to serve others? How does this passage challenge or change how you live day to day?

6. What are specific moments in Scripture where Jesus demonstrates hospitality? What stands out about how he treated people? In what ways does His actions inspire your hospitality toward others?

7. **In Matthew 22:36-40, Jesus said that the greatest commands are to love God and to love others as yourself.** What would it practically look like for our Life Group to live this out through hospitality this week?

Mark of a Disciple : Believe in Jesus & Choose Community

Respond in Prayer

Take a few moments to thank God for his Gospel reconciliation. Ask him to give you boldness and courage to live out the gospel and be like Jesus. Pray for specific people in your lives that you can show hospitality.

Next Step

This week, spend time with God reflecting on the vertical reconciliation with Him through Christ. Thank him for that and use it as a time of repentance and surrender. Ask Him to show you how he has gifted you and what ways you can use your gifts for horizontal reconciliation to people.

Week 4 – June 21, 2026:

"With Grace" – Ephesians 4:1–6

Optional Opening Question: How did it go with last week's next step?

Big Idea: Jesus' resurrection is the serpent-crushing antidote that drives out fear.

Main Idea: A good biblical definition of "grace" is undeserved/unmerited favor. This is what makes salvation so miraculous. God displayed His grace on sinners in order that they might be saved, apart from deserving or meritorious activity. In Ephesians 4, the Holy Spirit, through the Apostle Paul, calls us to live gracefully with one another out of the overflow of the grace of God extended to us through the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are to extend humility, gentleness, patience, and love for the purpose of unity and peace. This is the sum total of grace meant to unify and provide peace vertically with God and horizontally with "one another."

Main Scripture: Ephesians 4:1–6

Supporting Scripture: Galatians 5:22–26; John 17:20–23

Content: Talk through these questions with your life group, family and friends or others who are growing with you in knowing Jesus more.

Discussion:

1. **Share about a time in your life when someone demonstrated genuine interest and intentionality in your life.** What did they do or say that had an impact on you? How specifically did their intentionality impact you?

2. **Ephesians 4:1-6.** What is the calling Paul is referring to here? What do you think Paul's charge to "walk worthy of the calling you have received," means?

3. **What do you think it practically looks like to live a life "worthy of the calling" you've received in Christ?** Where do you find that most challenging in your daily life?

4. Paul highlights humility, gentleness, patience, and bearing with one another in love. Which of these is hardest for you personally—and why?

5. **What are some real-life situations where unity is difficult to maintain in the church or in relationships?** How can remembering what we share in Christ (our unity in Him) reshape the way we view or treat other believers who are different from us?

6. **Read Galatians 5:22-26.** What role does the Holy Spirit play in how we interact with other believers? Is there a particular fruit of the Spirit you think would have the greatest impact on how you do this?

7. **Read John 17:20-23.** What outcome does Jesus pray for in praying for unity among his followers? In other words what impact does He imply unity will have? What does this reveal about his heart for people?

Mark of a Disciple : Believe in Jesus, Live as an Ambassador

Respond in Prayer

Encourage your group to take a moment and think about a believer that they are experiencing tension with relationally. Share that you will give them a minute or so to pray (on their own during the quiet) for that person and for the Lord to guide them in their next step relationally with that person.

Next Step

This week continue to pray for that person and relationship. And also consider taking an actionable next step. Perhaps reaching out to set up a conversation with that person or an intentional text or communication.

Week 5 – June 28, 2026:

"From the Word of Christ" – Colossians 3:16

Optional Opening Question: How did it go with last week's Next Step?

Big Idea: The Word of Christ overcomes the lies of the enemy.

Message Overview: When we don't remember, we forget. This statement seems simple enough, but when applied to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, it becomes a profound essential of the victorious Christian life — and a command to be carried out in the context of Christian community. Far too often, and far too easily, we forget the Gospel. The weight of our circumstances, shame from sin, and other factors dominate our hearts and minds causing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to take a backseat. Enter Christian community. We are to constantly remind "one another" of the word of Christ — both the Gospel message and the teaching of Jesus — the wisdom of God that overcomes the wisdom of this world. And we remind one another through more than just words, but also through songs, as we teach and sing true things about Jesus, what He's accomplished for us, and who we are because of Him until our hearts and minds align with the truth we declare over "one another."

Main Scripture: Colossians 3:16 – **"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."**

Supporting Scripture: John 15:1-11; Ephesians 5:15-21

Mark of a Disciple: Believe in Jesus, Choose Community

Action Step: Salvation, Repentance/Surrender of Believers, Life Group Emphasis

Content: Talk through these questions with your life group, family and friends or others who are growing with you in knowing Jesus more.

Discussion:

1. **When you're having a hard day or struggling with life circumstances, what are typical ways you seek relief or comfort?** In those times, what lies are you tempted to believe?

2. **Read aloud Colossians 3:16.** The first phrase talks about the word of Christ. If that means both the Gospel message and the teaching of Jesus, what are some practical ways to allow those truths to "dwell in you richly." How can a Life Group help you grow in this spiritual practice?

3. While the beginning of this verse is a personal challenge, it goes on to describe actions that influence others. What phrases in **Colossians 3:16** describe how it might look as we interact with others while keeping the word of Christ at the forefront of our minds.

4. **Read aloud John 15:1-11. What word is most repeated?** What's your understanding of the meaning of that word? What similar word is found looking back at Colossians 3:16?

5. **What's challenging to you about abiding or dwelling in the truth of the Gospel?** From this passage in John, what is the promised reward?

6. **Read aloud Ephesians 5:15-21.** What warnings are given? What makes it possible for us to "walk wisely," even in a godless culture? How will others experience us when the Holy Spirit is our primary influence?

7. If you have a personal example, tell your group about a time when someone encouraged you with the word of Christ. **If you've had a recent opportunity to do this for someone else, share that**

Respond in Prayer

Several of this week's Scriptures encourage singing to state true things about Jesus —what He's accomplished for us, and who we are because of Him — until our hearts and minds align with the truth, so we can declare it over "one another." As your prayer today, listen or sing along with one of these songs from Forest Hill music. https://linktr.ee/FHCMusic

Live As an Ambassador

When we fill our minds and hearts with the Truth of Scripture and yield to the Holy Spirit, our attitudes and reactions will look different than when we don't. Repent of allowing other influences to be stronger. Then look for an opportunity to testify about the goodness of God to someone in your sphere of influence.

Next Step

What step can you take this week to keep Gospel truth at the forefront of your mind? Here's a daily Bible reading plan connected to this Scripture study https://foresthill.org/sermon-series-resources/**.** Will you start wherever you are and make daily Bible reading part of your daily rhythms?