

DNA of a Christ Follower

Small Group Resources

Lesson 2: Lover of People

Note: [Comments in square brackets are answers or tips for the leader]

Opener ideas:

Are you an introvert or extrovert? How does this show up in your life?

Another way to ask the question is “Are you innnergized or exnergized?” that is, do you gain energy by being with people or being along?

What is the most comfortable sized group for you to be in: a group of 1 (just you); 2 or 3; ~10; 100’s?

Open in prayer.

You can ask someone else to open in prayer if you know they are comfortable doing so. Ideally ask them ahead of time.

The Study:

- Read Matthew 22.34-40
- Why is it harder to lover people than to love God? [Is it?]

- Do you think we are in the end times?
- What are some of the signs of the end times you watch for?
- Read Matthew 24.9-12; Read 2 Timothy 3.1-4

One of the signs of the end will be a misplaced love: love for self, love for pleasure, but a lack of love for good, for God and for others.

- Using that metric or misplaced love, especially a lack of love for others, what evidence do you see that we may be in the last days?

- Why is it so common for Christians to claim to love God but be lacking in love for people? How do we rationalize this to ourselves?

- Who is someone you know who is easy to love? Why are they so easy to love?
- Think of someone you know who is difficult to love. What makes it difficult to love them?
- [Extra question for groups where people know each other well and are secure: Are you easy or difficult to love? Why do you think so? What do others say?]

Genesis 1.27

- What does it mean to be created in the image of God?
[Among other things, we are eternal beings, moral agents (knowing and choosing right and wrong). And an implication of this is that we are valuable.]

One reason we are called to love people is that people have an inherent eternal value.

- In addition to being made in the image of God, what biblical truths point to our value?
See 1 Peter 1.18-21. [The price God was willing to pay to redeem us.]
- What reason or reasons for loving people is shown in these verses?
1 John 3.11-18; 4.7-12
[**Loving people is part of loving God, evidence of loving God.**]

The “one anothers” are a summary of all the ways we can actively love people.

- Which of the one anothers are most important to you?
[See supplemental pdf of all the one anothers > offer people some examples if needed, such as encouraging, accepting, teaching, forgiving each other/one another]

“Loving people means acting in their best interests.”

- Is this an adequate summary of that loving people means? Why or why not? How would you summarize what it means to love people?

A Christ follower is a lover of people, someone who acts in the best interests of others, because they recognize the inherent value of people and love the God who loves every person.

Application/sharing:

Who are you being prompted to actively love, and how?

Is there something you can/should do as a group to actively love someone?

Example: A card of encouragement, helping with a physical need, praying for...

Think outside the church!

[You may want to have a card or cards on hand for the group to write to an individual and sign.

Pray for each other to move out into these applications of active loving.