

Others

**" Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others,
as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. "**

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)



Living for Others — The Way of Christ

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” ~ Mark 10:45

You may be surprised to learn that our eternal destiny is closely tied to how we become neighbours to others. Two key passages make this clear: Luke 10:25–37 (*the Good Samaritan*) and Matthew 25:31–46 (*the Final Judgment*).

In Luke’s account, a lawyer comes to Jesus with a sincere question: *What must I do to inherit eternal life?*” Jesus gently turns the question back to him, asking what the law says. The lawyer answers well: we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind—and to love our neighbour as ourselves. Jesus affirms him, saying, *You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live.*”

Wanting clarity, the lawyer then asks, *Who is my neighbour?*” Jesus responds with a story. A man is beaten by robbers and left for dead. A priest and a Levite see him but pass by. Then a Samaritan comes along. Moved with compassion, he stops, tends the man’s wounds, carries him to safety, and even pays for his care. When Jesus asks who proved to be a neighbour, the answer is clear: The one who showed mercy.” Jesus’ gentle instruction follows: *Go and do likewise.*”

In Matthew, Jesus takes us further, giving us a glimpse of eternity. He describes a day when all people will stand before Him, separated into two groups like sheep from goats. Those welcomed into the kingdom are not praised for their words or positions, but for their acts of love—feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, visiting the sick and imprisoned. When they ask when they ever did these things for Him, Jesus replies, *Whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me.*”

These passages don’t just resemble each other—they interpret each other. Luke asks the question of eternal life; Matthew reveals what that life looks like. Together they show us that loving God and loving others cannot be separated. Love for God is proven by love in action toward others.

Like the lawyer, many believers know the right answers, yet miss the point: Who is my neighbour? Or, like those in Matthew, “Lord, when did we see You?” The sin is not ignorance, but inaction. The neighbour in Luke (*do this and live*) is revealed as Jesus Himself in Matthew (*you did it to me*). We meet Christ on the road, not just at the altar.

Truly, we are saved by grace—but grace received becomes love given. Action, not affiliation, defines righteousness.

Paula

Guidelines

This guide has been prayerfully prepared with six subjects that align with our theme, **Others.** It's here to support you as a LifeConnect leader—helping ease the pressure of topic preparation and giving you a framework for meaningful conversations.

As you use this guide, take time to read it prayerfully. Bring your own voice, experiences, and insights into each session, while staying grounded in the truth of God's Word. Some topics may naturally take more than one gathering—feel free to slow down, split them up, and give your group the time they need to truly understand and engage.

Move through each subject with intention. Make sure the group is grasping the heart of the discussion before moving on. LifeConnect is not meant to feel like a traditional Bible study where one person does all the talking. Instead, it's a shared space where we learn from one another.

Encourage participation, ask thoughtful questions, and listen well. If the conversation drifts, gently guide it back with grace. Above all, stay sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit as you go through each discussion together.

And remember—you are not doing this alone. God's grace is more than enough for you.

Jesus Christ is our ultimate example when it comes to serving others. We can only live this out as we fix our eyes on Him—the author and finisher of our faith. With that in mind, our theme, **Others,** invites us to see service through the lens of Jesus Himself. Together, we will reflect on how He lived, loved, and served, through the following sessions:

Session 1: The Mindset - Putting Others First

Session 2: The Model - Jesus the Servant King

Session 3: The Motive - Love That Chooses the Good of Others

Session 4: The Practice - Serving Through God-Given Gifts

Session 5: The Character - Living with Kindness, Forgiveness, and Grace

Session 6: The Outcome - A Christlike and Compelling Witness

Each session helps us move from understanding to action, as we learn to reflect the heart of Christ in the way we love and serve others.

Session 1: The Mindset - Putting Others First

Icebreaker:

Take a group photo on your phone. Then show it to everyone. What s the first thing people do? They immediately hunt for themselves—just to check if the camera captured their best image or not.

Introduction:

Like what we did, a group photo reveals a simple truth: everyone’s natural tendency is to look for themselves first. *Did I look good?* Even when together, our default mindset is to look for ourselves first.

In God s kingdom, it s the opposite. He is rewiring our minds and heart by putting others first. Surely, this is not going to be easy. There will be a constant habitual tug to look out for our interests first. The passages below provide a helpful guide to shift our paradigm from self-interest to putting others first.

1. Count others more significant than yourself.

“³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

Philippians 2:3-4

Practical examples: Genuinely celebrate others’ stories and success, deflect praise toward the team, share credit freely, make space for others’ ideas, listen emphatically, assume the best in others, yield preferences, seek understanding before judgment, etc.

(Ask the group for their inputs.)

2. Outdo one another in showing honour.

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour.”

Romans 12:10

Practical examples: Let others go first, respect people s time, treat service workers with dignity, give authority away not just tasks, yield space, forgive quickly, refuse to humiliate the person in disagreement, acknowledge when the person is right in their position, saying thank you to the person who extended help, speak well of family members publicly.

(Ask the group for their inputs.)

3. Pleasing his neighbour for his good, to build him up.

“¹ We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ² Let each of us please his neighbour for his good, to build him up.”

Romans 15:1–2

Practical examples: Adapt your preferences, speak what strengthens, be patient with spiritual growth, yield non-essential points, speak the truth in love, listen to understand fears and concerns, make choices with the least mature in mind.

(Ask the group for their inputs.)

Key Takeaway:

Spiritual maturity is measured by how well we consider others.

The next time you look at a group photo, notice everyone else before looking for yourself.

Group Discussion (each participant to choose one):

1. Why is putting others first so difficult in everyday life?
2. What does humility look like practically at home, church, or work?
3. Where might God be asking you to adjust your attitude toward others?

Session 2: The Model - Jesus the Servant King

¹² *This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.* ¹³ *Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”*

John 15:12–13

Icebreaker

Which do you think is more impactful type of leadership: A leadership that effectively delegates or a leadership that is modelled? Why do you think so?

Introduction:

What we model invites imitation. That's what Jesus did. He washed the disciples' feet. His leadership style is servant-centred, others-focused, and God-directed. Jesus reversed conventional leadership. And we see this pattern carried out by the apostles in their ministry.

Here are the core features of His leadership:

1. Servant leadership

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Mark 10:45

He led by serving, not dominating, he washed feet (John 13), taking the lowest role. Authority flowed from self-giving love, not position.

2. Relational and Incarnational

Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.”

Luke 19:5

Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him...

Luke 8:1

Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”

John 8:11 (on the woman caught in adultery)

Jesus led from among the people, not at a distance. Proximity not hierarchy—He lived with His disciples, sharing meals, travel and hardship. He knows people personally—their names, stories, and wounds. He speaks the truth in love.

3. Empowering and Releasing

¹ And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ And proclaim as you go, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons.

Matthew 10:1, 5-8

Jesus did not create dependence—He created multipliers. He entrusted authority before they were “ready”. He trained ordinary people for an extraordinary mission.

Key Takeaway:

We serve because Christ first served us.

Group Discussion (each participant to choose one):

1. How does Jesus' definition of greatness differ from the world's?
2. What stands out to you about Jesus' example of sacrificial love?
3. Who might God be calling you to serve intentionally this week?

Session 3: The Motive - Love That Chooses the Good of Others

Icebreaker:

Ask each participant to think of one small thing they could do today to make someone else's day better—something they wouldn't normally do or might go unnoticed.

Give a few examples to get them thinking:

- Letting someone else take the last piece of cake.
- Sending a message of encouragement to a colleague or friend.
- Doing a chore without being asked.

Have each person **share their idea** with the group (it can be light-hearted or funny).

Close with the reflection:

Love that chooses the good of others doesn't always look big. Sometimes, it's the **small choices** we make that show the deepest care."

Challenge the participants to do something good for others and share it in the next LCG.

Introduction:

Everyone wants to do what is good. Yet when doing good requires giving up our time, resources, or comfort, we often hesitate, reluctant to face inconvenience.

Jesus, however, calls anyone who would follow Him to **take up their cross**.

Every culture and religion has a version of the Golden Rule, and Christianity is no different. But Jesus' Golden Rule stands apart, because it goes **beyond action to motive**—it calls us to genuinely choose the good of others, even at personal cost. Here's how it makes that distinction:

1. Positive action not just restraint.

Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets."

Matthew 7:12 (NLT)

Here's how other religions frame the Golden Rule:

- Confucianism – *"Do not do to others you do not want done to yourself."*
- Judaism – *"What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour."*
- Islam – *"None of you truly believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself."*
- Hinduism – *"Do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you."*
- Buddhism – *"Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful."*

While other religions says, **don t do** , Christianity says, **do to others** . It s a positive action to proactively love not just restraint.

2. The motivation is to glorify God, not just avoidance of harm.

³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13:34-35

The motive for choosing the good of others is not just to avoid harm of others for social harmony (Confucianism), or as ethical duty (Judaism), or as proof of faith (Islam), or as duty (Hinduism), or as compassion to avoid suffering (Buddhism).

It s a proactive love that reflects the character of God in us. By doing so, God is glorified and people will know that we are Christ s disciples.

3. Christ-like love for others is not conditional upon reciprocity or in the interest of self-preservation.

Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbour.”

1 Corinthians 10:24

This is not the same as the typically held moral principle of “Treat others well because you want them to treat you well.” Christ-like love is not based on what you get back. It s not pragmatic, not self-protective. Love and service are driven by empathy and God s values.

Key Takeaway:

Love asks, “What is best for them?” not “What benefits me?”

Group Discussion (each participant to choose one):

1. How does seeking the good of others challenge personal preferences?
2. What does the Golden Rule look like in real-life decisions?
3. Where do you sense God calling you to choose love over convenience?

Session 4: The Practice - Serving Through God-Given Gifts

Icebreaker:

Give each participant an opportunity to share a brief story about a time they benefited from the talent or ability of another person. How might things have been different if that person had chosen not to serve others with their ability in that situation?

Introduction:

As we read through the biblical gospels, we see Jesus' modelling **godly service to others** - Himself the perfect Servant King. It should come as no surprise, therefore, that the rest of the New Testament provides us with many strong encouragements to use our God-given gifts to serve others, just as our Lord and Saviour did here on earth.

Here are three key things to keep in mind about serving others and the nature of our God-given gifts:

1. **Every believer has received a gift. The God-given gifts we have received are given for a purpose - to serve others and glorify God.**

"As each one has received a gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God..."

1 Peter 4:10

God gifts each true believer with talents, abilities, knowledge and/or traits so that they can joyfully contribute to and participate in the advancement of His kingdom on earth.

Whatever our gift(s), we must remember their purpose - serving others. When we use our gifts as they are intended, we are acting as Christ's "hands and feet" in the world, displaying God's grace, advancing His Kingdom, and bringing Him glory.

2. **God expects us to use our gifts wisely, multiplying their impact through diligent effort.**

"...And the one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed five talents over to me. See, I have gained five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'..."

Matthew 25:20-21

In His 'parable of the talents' (Matthew 25:14-30), Jesus gives us insight into the responsibility we have with regard to the gifts we have received from God. He expects us to faithfully use the gifts and opportunities we have been given, not neglect them and make them of no benefit.

As Christians, the opportunity we have to work with God to advance His kingdom is a gracious blessing. A desire to use our God-given gifts to bless others and glorify God is a visible sign of the work of Spirit in our hearts.

3. Resist the temptation to try being someone else - be the person God has gifted you to be.

“But now God has appointed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. And if they were all one member, where would the body be?”

1 Cor 12:18-19

If we try to walk in the calling of another person, we neglect our own, and others miss out on the benefit of the unique role we’ve been created to play.

We will be most effective for Christ when we first pause to identify the ways in which he has gifted us, and then focus our efforts to develop those gifts and put them to good use for the benefit of others.

In short; ask yourself, “What things am I passionate about and good at?” Once you’ve answered that question, do that thing in a way that benefits someone else, to the best of your ability and to the glory of God.

Key Takeaway:

If you’re a disciple of Christ, you have at least one God-given gift that you can use to serve others.

If you’re not sure what your God-given gift(s) are, take time to ask yourself, “What am I passionate about and good at? How can I use that gift to benefit other people?”

Group Discussion (each participant to choose one):

1. What is one thing in your life that you have both a passion for doing and some level of ability for doing well. Name one way in which you might be able to use this gift to serve others either inside or outside the church.
2. What are some of the important things to consider and/or some of the practical things we ought to be doing to wisely steward our God-given gifts and maximise their impact in the lives of others?
3. Do you ever struggle with the temptation to be like someone else in the way you serve in the church or the way you share the message of Jesus with those outside the church, rather than being authentic to the person God has gifted you to be? If so, why?

Session 5: The Character - Living with Kindness, Forgiveness, and Grace

Icebreaker:

As a group to think of one or two examples, perhaps a memorable news story or a notable event from history, (or personal experience if a member of the group is comfortable sharing one) where someone showed unexpected kindness, forgiveness or compassion to another person or group of people.

What are our emotional reactions to examples like these? How do they affect our perception of the value of acting with kindness, forgiveness and grace in our day-to-day lives?

Introduction:

We all recognise the value of kindness, forgiveness and grace. A world without these things would be a terrifying and horrible place. But the true, biblical expressions of these behaviours and characteristics are not natural for fallen people in a broken world. To show true kindness, offer true forgiveness and live with Godly grace for others requires **intentionality** and the **help of the Holy Spirit** in our lives.

Here are three points to consider that may help you to intentionally live with kindness, forgiveness and grace for others:

1. **The true test of our Christian character is how we treat our enemies, not just our friends.**

“But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others?”

Matthew 5:44-47

Many mistake kindness to family, friends, colleagues, etc. - those who they like and who are generally kind to them in return - for virtue. In fact, Jesus tells us that this kind of love for others is not the true mark of Christian character or virtue; even unrighteousness people show love to those who love them in return.

Rather, the kindness that God models for us is a kindness that does not differentiate between friend and foe, between family and stranger, between ally or enemy. Just as God shows grace to those who love him and those who do not, so too should we show kindness to all, not just to our friends and family.

2. Forgive, as you have been forgiven

“Instead, be kind to one another, tender-hearted, graciously forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has graciously forgiven you.”

Ephesians 4:32

Showing kindness to those who oppose us necessarily involves forgiveness; we cannot seek the good of our neighbour while also seeking revenge against them.

Forgiveness does not mean that we overlook the sinfulness of others' wrongdoing towards us, or that we deny the hurt it has caused. God did not turn a blind eye to our sins against Him - rather **He sent His son to save us despite our sins** - Jesus suffering our punishment in our place. In the same way, we are called to **act with kindness** towards those who wrong us and **leave any issue of vengeance to God**.

3. When we show grace, we reveal God's character to the world

*“But God, being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ—**by grace you have been saved**—...”*

Ephesians 2:4-5

*“Who is a God like You, who forgives iniquity
And passes over the transgression of the remnant of His inheritance?”*

Micah 7:18

Grace is the very essence of the gospel. Often referred to as **unmerited favour** - it describes the disposition or act of giving others something that they do not deserve. Our salvation is entirely by grace because God has gifted it to us even though we can do nothing to earn it and have done nothing to deserve it.

When we act with grace toward others - showing compassion when they have shown none to us, offering forgiveness to someone who has made no effort to right the wrong they have done to us, or sacrificing our wellbeing for the wellbeing of a stranger - we imitate God in His graciousness and display His character the world.

Key Takeaway:

Showing kindness, forgiveness and grace to others is an essential component of true Christian character. Intentionally developing and growing these traits in our lives should be a continual part of our sanctification.

Group Discussion:

1. Which of these three traits (kindness towards your enemies, offering forgiveness and showing grace) do you find the most difficult, and why? What is one intentional action you could take or habit you could build to grow in that area?

Session 6: The Outcome - A Christlike and Compelling Witness

Icebreaker:

How does it make you feel when someone says one thing, but behaves in the opposite manner? Does it make you more or less likely to trust them and seek to follow their advice?

Introduction:

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

Sharing the gospel with others involves more than merely speaking words. The scriptures call us not only to be preachers, but **witnesses**. When we witness to others about Jesus, we do so not only with words, but also with our actions.

Just like a witness in a courtroom trial, the audience will judge **the credibility of our testimony** according to the strength of our character. A Christ-like character bears strong witness for the truth of the good news we proclaim about Him.

1. Prove the love of Christ by your actions

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

John 3:16-17

Love is an easy thing to profess but requires intentional effort to show. It is often said that “actions speak louder than words”, and a profession of love without deeds to back it up is just empty words.

If we want to bear effective witness to a compassionate and forgiving God who gave His very son out of love for us, we ought to strive to treat others in a manner that resembles the way He has treated us.

2. Consistency is key

“Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold, the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”

Matthew 7:4-5

Nobody likes a hypocrite. It is a natural human instinct to distrust those who speak one message with their words and a different one with their behaviour. We rightly conclude that such a person is either suffering from a delusion or intentionally trying to mislead us. Either way, words not supported by actions are easy to ignore.

As followers of Christ, we must endeavour to live in a way that shows those around us that we truly believe the gospel that we preach.

3. Love and truth go hand in hand

*“...but **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, that is Christ...”*

Ephesians 4:15

Living consistently with the message we proclaim as Christians means living and speaking in a way that is consistent with the truth that God has revealed to us in His word.

The temptation to compromise our message or our behaviour to conform to what the world perceives to be loving (rather than what God says is good) is very real.

It has been said that “Truth without love is **brutality**, and love without truth is **hypocrisy**.” As believers we must endeavour to walk the fine line of love and truth in all our interactions with others - reflecting God’s kindness and compassion towards others, but also His righteousness and holiness.

Key Takeaway:

The way we behave towards others testifies to the love of God and the truth of the gospel just as much as the message we share with our words.

Group Discussion (each participant to choose one):

1. What is one new behaviour you could begin to make a habit in your interactions with others as a witness to the love of God?
2. What are some common ways that believers compromise their message about Jesus by behaving in a way that is inconsistent with the gospel?
3. What is one challenge you face when it comes to loving others well while also living consistently with the truth of God’s word? What strategies might you be able to use to overcome that challenge?