

## GROUP LEADER GUIDE (Week: 10/18-10/24) – Vision: Whole Hearts

Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 / Sermon Title: “Wholehearted Love for Neighbor”

BIG Idea: *The gospel empowers and frees us to always increase in our love for one another and for all.*

**Focus this week:** fellowship and relationship comfortability is still the focus this week. Be sure to spend plenty of time getting to know each other and grow in comfortability with one another. This is why it helps to have icebreakers, food, music, etc. at the beginning of your meeting. This will pay dividends in the later months.

### **FELLOWSHIP TIME (15 minutes)**

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Be sure to plan out some way to implement casual fellowship time as people come to your group.

### **STARTING OFF THE NIGHT (15 minutes)**

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After the fellowship time at the beginning of your meeting, have everyone find their seats and start off with an icebreaker. You can use one of the icebreakers from the leader resource page found here:

<https://lifewayresearch.com/2020/02/19/75-icebreaker-questions-for-church-small-groups/>

**Pow’s and Wow’s (a.k.a. “High’s” and “Low’s”):** After you do the icebreaker, one thing you can do to start your group off each week is called “Pow’s and Wow’s”. Have each person go around and share a “pow” (a low moment from the past week) and a “wow” (a high point moment from the last week). This can also be a great way to learn how you can pray for one another.

### **DISCUSSION (45 minutes)**

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Start discussion by saying, “This past Sunday we looked at the heart and soul of the renewed mission of CAB: *wholehearted love for Jesus Christ*. This is the most important thing that any human could ever do. The main thing we saw from Philippians 1:20-26 is that the main way we glorify Jesus Christ is not something that we *do* or *perform*, but something our hearts sense and feel towards Jesus.”

1. What were some things from the sermon that were particularly helpful or challenging for you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Read 1 Thessalonians 3:12 out loud then quietly to yourselves. What phrase or aspect of this verse stands out to you most? Why do you think the Lord has brought out to you now?

3. Have someone read Philippians 1:8-11. What are some similarities between this verse and 1 Thessalonians 3:12? What does it look like for you to “abound more and more in love” for one another and for your neighbor?
  
4. What are some of the greatest hindrances to the Spirit making love abound in you more and more for one another and for your neighbor?
  
5. When was a time that you tangibly loved someone in the church or your neighbor? What was it that moved you to take such steps of obedience? How did you feel afterward? Why?
  
6. Further study: read the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. How does this parable portray the gospel of Jesus’ love for us? How does it shape the way we view our lives as they relate to our neighbor?
  
7. In what way can we pray for one another for wholehearted love for one another and our neighbor?

### **PRAYER (15 minutes)**

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This is one of the most important things you can do for growing spiritually in your group. Always be sure to leave plenty of time to pray together as a group. ***Go around and have everyone share where they need prayer, then take plenty of time to pray for each person.***