



A COMMUNITY THAT CARES

How God grows us as persons in the People of God.



Week 7 Discussion Guide

More Than Words: A Community of Material Care, 1 John 3:16-18

This discussion guide is offered as a supplement to our church's preaching ministry. It can be used as an aid in your personal time with the Lord, or as a resource for facilitating greater reflection with your family, friends, or small group.

SERMON SUMMARY

Jesus's love toward us is one of incomprehensible sacrificial, voluntary, and physical sacrifice. His love is the means by which we are restored in our relationship to God, and the model for how we are called to love one another, not just in words, but in deeds through the way we care for the material needs of one another.

READ 1 John 3:16-18

HEAD

1. How does one's belief in God's love for us through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, change the way that we THINK about physical or material needs in the lives of other people?

HEART

2. Generally, how do one's hands [acts of care for others] serve as a barometer of one's heart for God? Spend some time in honest reflection before the Lord. More specifically, what do your own "hands" currently say about your heart for God? If convicted of a need for growth, "thank" Jesus for showing your need for growth, confess any areas of sin you have, ask God to help you to rest in the truth that you are not "saved by works" [performance], and ask God's Spirit to help you to grow in this area. Also, consider asking a friend for accountability regarding any action steps you identify.

HANDS

3. What are ways that our church currently seeks to care for the material needs in the lives of others, both through ministries we "own" [i.e., are created and overseen by North Cincinnati] and/or through partnerships we develop? What are ideas you have for how we could grow in this area as a community of Christ-followers?

4. How am I as an individual being called to participate in our church's institutional efforts to care for others?

5. How am I as an individual being called to care for others in ways that our church as an institution is not?

6. Are you aware of a material need in the life of a person in our church community that you would believe requires assistance from our church? Please let our deacons know by emailing them at deacons@northcincy.org.

7. Exercise: Take time to brainstorm and list the names of 2-3 people that God has put in regular proximity to you where you live, work, and play (2-3 people in each category). Next to each name, try to identify 1-2 concrete needs in each person's life? Lastly, what is one way, in addition to prayer, that God might be calling you to help address their need?