



OVERVIEW:

Welcome to our first LifeGroup study of the season! Perhaps this is your first time ever meeting together as a LifeGroup. If that is you, congratulations! Or, maybe you've been together for years and today marks that next leg of your ongoing journey together as a group. Whatever your situation is, being IN A GROUP is something that God can use in your lives to grow your walk with Him in powerful ways. For today's study, we're going to explore a key practice of the New Testament called the "one-anothers". The goal of our study is that we would discover how practicing the "one-anothers" is key to be IN A GROUP. Let's dive into the study!

ICEBREAKER: My Neighbourhood Growing Up

I grew up in a great neighbourhood. The street my family lived on was a crescent which meant us kids could set up hockey nets for a game of road hockey, or play a rousing game of hide-and-seek or "kick-the-can" without much interruption from cars. I have lots of fond memories of playing with the neighbourhood kids and visiting with neighbours that lived on our little street in London. How about you? What was the neighbourhood like where you grew up? What is a key memory you have from that time about your neighbourhood? **Share your story with the group!**

STUDY:

“The primary activity of the church was the one-anothering of one another.”
Andy Stanley

For today’s study we’re going to focus in on the “one-anothers”. The “one-anothers” were modeled by Jesus, practiced by the early church and taught as key for us to be the community of Jesus today. To begin our study, we’ll look at the core “one-another” on which all the others are built – “love one-another”.

READ: John 13:34-35 (Jesus’ words to His disciples the night before He went to the cross)

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” NIV

1. Why would Jesus begin by saying, “A new command I give you ...”?

LEADER NOTES: Jesus had taught his disciples many things while He was with them but now He was giving them a “new” or final command before He went to the cross. The Jews had been raised with the teaching of the Ten Commandments. Now Jesus tells his disciples that loving one another is his new commandment to them. “Here is the most important thing” Jesus is saying. “This is the main point of what I’ve taught you and modeled for you. Love one another.” Following Jesus isn’t about keeping a bunch of arbitrary rules in order to be right with God. When we love God and others, we are walking in the way of Jesus.

2. What does it mean to love one another? See if you can give two or three practical examples.

LEADER NOTES: To know what it means to love one another, our teacher and example is Jesus. Jesus loves us with a perfect love. He loves us with a sacrificial love. Jesus demonstrated His love for us by washing the disciples feet (John 13) and ultimately by dying on the cross for us (Romans 5:8). Loving one another works its way out in practical ways in our lives. We can show our love by putting others’ needs before our own. We can demonstrate God’s love by serving others and by caring for them in practical ways.

3. Jesus said, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” Why is it so important that we demonstrate God’s love in our world?

LEADER NOTES: We live in a world that is desperate to know and experience true love. We are hardwired by God to desire love, ultimately to know His love. Followers of Jesus have an amazing opportunity to show the world God’s love through our love for one another. While we are not perfect, God’s power can shine in our love for each other in a way that draws others to our Saviour.

4. How can we love one another in LifeGroup? What are some practical ways we can do this?

LEADER NOTES: Your LifeGroup is a laboratory to practice loving one another in practical ways. To love one another well, we must know one another well. Taking time to listen to one another's stories of who we are (our background, family and significant events that have shaped us) and what we care about is a powerful way to show God's love. Helping one another with needs, caring for one another by spending time together and showing up to be a friend are practical demonstrations of God's love.

THE 59 ONE-ANOTHERS

In the New Testament we find 59 "one-anothers" where we are told how to relate to one another as the body of Christ. Sit in a circle and take turns reading one each out loud of these teachings along with their reference. Read slowly and take a short pause between each.

The 59 "One Others" of the New Testament*

1. *"...Be at peace with each other." (Mark 9:50)*
2. *"...Wash one another's feet." (John 13:14)*
3. *"...Love one another..." (John 13:34)*
4. *"...Love one another..." (John 13:34)*
5. *"...Love one another..." (John 13:35)*
6. *"...Love one another..." (John 15:12)*
7. *"...Love one another" (John 15:17)*
8. *"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love..." (Romans 12:10)*
9. *"...Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10)*
10. *"Live in harmony with one another..." (Romans 12:16)*
11. *"...Love one another..." (Romans 13:8)*
12. *"...Stop passing judgment on one another." (Romans 14:13)*
13. *"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you..." (Romans 15:7)*
14. *"...Instruct one another." (Romans 15:14)*
15. *"Greet one another with a holy kiss..." (Romans 16:16)*
16. *"...When you come together to eat, wait for each other." (I Cor. 11:33)*
17. *"...Have equal concern for each other." (I Corinthians 12:25)*
18. *"...Greet one another with a holy kiss." (I Corinthians 16:20)*
19. *"Greet one another with a holy kiss." (II Corinthians 13:12)*
20. *"...Serve one another in love." (Galatians 5:13)*
21. *"If you keep on biting and devouring each other...you will be destroyed by each other." (Galatians 5:15)*

22. *"Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other." (Galatians 5:26)*
23. *"Carry each other's burdens..." (Galatians 6:2)*
24. *"...Be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:2)*
25. *"Be kind and compassionate to one another..." (Ephesians 4:32)*
26. *"...Forgiving each other..." (Ephesians 4:32)*
27. *"Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs." (Ephesians 5:19)*
28. *"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." (Ephesians 5:21)*
29. *"...In humility consider others better than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3)*
30. *"Do not lie to each other..." (Colossians 3:9)*
31. *"Bear with each other..." (Colossians 3:13)*
32. *"...Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another." (Colossians 3:13)*
33. *"Teach...[one another]" (Colossians 3:16)*
34. *"...Admonish one another (Colossians 3:16)*
35. *"...Make your love increase and overflow for each other." (I Thessalonians 3:12)*
36. *"...Love each other." (I Thessalonians 4:9)*
37. *"...Encourage each other..."(I Thessalonians 4:18)*
38. *"...Encourage each other..." I Thessalonians 5:11)*
39. *"...Build each other up..." (I Thessalonians 5:11)*
40. *"Encourage one another daily..." Hebrews 3:13)*
41. *"...Spur one another on toward love and good deeds." (Hebrews 10:24)*
42. *"...Encourage one another." (Hebrews 10:25)*
43. *"...Do not slander one another." (James 4:11)*
44. *"Don't grumble against each other..." (James 5:9)*
45. *"Confess your sins to each other..." (James 5:16)*
46. *"...Pray for each other." (James 5:16)*
47. *"...Love one another deeply, from the heart." (I Peter 3:8)*
48. *"...Live in harmony with one another..." (I Peter 3:8)*
49. *"...Love each other deeply..." (I Peter 4:8)*
50. *"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling." (I Peter 4:9)*
51. *"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others..." (I Peter 4:10)*
52. *"...Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another..."(I Peter 5:5)*

53. "Greet one another with a kiss of love." (1 Peter 5:14)

54. "...Love one another." (1 John 3:11)

55. "...Love one another." (1 John 3:23)

56. "...Love one another." (1 John 4:7)

57. "...Love one another." (1 John 4:11)

58. "...Love one another." (1 John 4:12)

59. "...Love one another." (1 John 5)

5. What stands out to you about the "one-anothers"?

LEADER NOTES: Your group members may notice a number of things that stand out to them about the "one-anothers." For example, the command, "Love one another" is repeated often. There are many positive "one-anothers" we should practice and others we should avoid (ex. Galatians 5:15, 26). Give your group members time to reflect on this list and to share what stands out to them.

6. In this list we have some "one-anothers" that may sound odd or impractical to us today. For example, "Greet one another with a kiss of love." 1 Peter 5:14. **How might we live out this command in our context today?**

LEADER NOTE: All of the one-anothers in the New Testament have a principle or application for how we can live them out today. Although it likely isn't appropriate to kiss those you greet at church 😊 there are other ways to apply this principle. Ask your group members, "What do you think is the principle behind this "one-another"?" If this principle is to show affection or acceptance, how might we do this today? Through a smile, eye contact, a hand shake or even a hug if appropriate.

7. **Which of the "one-anothers" do you think we do well in the church today? Which do we need to work on?**
8. **What key lesson or next step do you feel God prompting you to take from this list of "one-anothers"?**

LIFEGROUP GUIDELINES

The following guidelines will help you lay the foundation for a healthy LifeGroup experience. Take 10-15 minutes to read through these guidelines one at a time and talk about how they will apply to your group. Feel free to modify these guidelines to make them your own.

AS A GROUP WE AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING VALUES:

- Clear Purpose:** To pursue healthy spiritual lives as we FOLLOW JESUS, LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE.
- Group Attendance:** Give priority to the group meeting (call if I'm going to be absent or late)
- Safe Environment:** To create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved (no quick answers, snap judgments or simple fixes).
- Confidentiality:** To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group.
- Welcome Newcomers:** To invite friends who might benefit from this study and to warmly welcome newcomers.
- Building Relationships:** To get to know the other members of the group and pray for them regularly.
- Responsibility:** To take an active role in the responsibilities of this group.

WHAT WE WANT TO DO ABOUT:

Refreshments/Mealtimes:

Childcare:

When and where we will meet: (consider rotating homes and responsibilities)

We will do our best to attend the following service together:

PRAY:

Thank God for Jesus, our teacher and example of perfect love. Ask God to help you practice the "one-anothers" in your LifeGroup as you grow together IN A GROUP this year.

