



Week Three

Romans 12:9-21 "How to Show Genuine Love"

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

This guide can be used on your own or with a small group to reflect on the weekend message and apply it to your life. Leader's Notes have been included to help in your preparation. Choose the questions that work best for your group—there's no need to go through them all.

To learn more, visit silverdalebc.com/smallgroups.

ICEBREAKER OPTIONS

1. When's a time someone showed you love through their actions instead of words?
2. What's an odd gift you have received from a loved one?
3. What's the best "little thing" (like holding the door, buying coffee, or sending a text) someone's done that made your whole day better?

1 How to Love the Family of God

Key Scripture:

"Let love be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good. Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honoring one another. Do not lack diligence in zeal; be fervent in the Spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer. Share with the saints in their needs; pursue hospitality." - Romans 12:9-13

Discuss:

- How have you noticed yourself giving "hypocritical love?" What's one way you could begin to love others more genuinely?
- Why do you think Paul connects love with hating evil?
- How can you personally "take the lead" in honoring others in your church community?

Leader's Note:

True love in the church must be authentic, not hypocritical. It looks like honoring others, meeting needs, and showing hospitality—treating each other like real family.

2 How to Care for the People of the World

Key Scripture:

"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud; instead, associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own estimation. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Give careful thought to do what is honorable in everyone's eyes. If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." - Romans 12:14–18

Discuss:

- What's one way you've seen (or experienced) a Christian respond with grace to hostility?
- Which part of Paul's challenge—bless those who persecute you, rejoice with others, weep with others, or associate with the lowly, etc.—is most convicting? What's one step you could take to grow in this area?

Leader's Note:

Loving people outside the church—especially those who may oppose our beliefs—requires sympathy and a pursuit of peace. We're called to empathize and harmonize, not to react in pride or anger.

3 How to Respond to Your Enemies

Key Scripture:

"Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for God's wrath, because it is written, 'Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay,' says the Lord. But if your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him something to drink. For in so doing you will be heaping fiery coals on his head. Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good." - Romans 12:19–21

Discuss:

- What does "leaving room for God's wrath" look like in a situation where you've been wronged?
- How does choosing kindness toward someone who has hurt/wronged you display the gospel?
- Is there someone you need to forgive or bless instead of retaliating?

Leader's Note:

Our natural instinct is to retaliate when we're wronged, but Jesus calls us to something higher: forgiveness and goodness. Doing good to our enemies allows God to work in their hearts—and in ours.

+ PRAY +

Spend time praying for hearts to be softened and filled with Christlike love. Ask God to help the group love authentically—at home, at church, in the community, and even toward enemies. Invite Him to reveal specific actions of love each person can take this week.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Whether you've been attending for years or just recently joined, God has a place for you at Silverdale to love others through service.



The Challenge

1. Browse our Areas of Service

Visit **silverdalebc.com/serve** to learn about service opportunities at Silverdale and in the community.

2. Complete the Volunteer Application

Visit **silverdalebc.com/serve** to complete the volunteer application to serve at Silverdale.

3. Talk to a Ministry Leader or Small Group Leader

God has given you your gifts *on purpose for a purpose*—don't let them go unused!



Upcoming Events to keep on your group's radar:

Forged: Men's Event - Sept. 27 | IMPACT Missions Conference - Nov. 5-9 | Illuminate - Dec. 1-4