

# LIFE GROUPS

**LEADER PAGE | Ascent | WEEK 11 of 15 | Sermon date:** October 16, 2022

## **Before Group** *(do the heart work)*

1 John 4:9 says, “In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.” Oftentimes, our culture describes love in abstract ways. Yet here, John teaches us that love is in fact a Person. In Jesus Christ, God manifests his love to us for a very specific purpose: “so that we might live through him.” Whatever challenges you’re facing today, remember to fix your eyes on Jesus: God’s love made visible to you. No matter how difficult life in this world maybe, God offers his amazing love to you.

## **During Group** *(facilitate effectively)*

As you lead through group this week Psalm 130 speaks of our hope in the Lord and His steadfast love. The **HEAD** question gives us a description of God’s steadfast love. This love can be difficult to explain because it is a love, we experience from Him rather than based on a feeling. God’s love is unchanging, unmoving, and never gives up. Jesus is God’s love manifested. Guide the discussion to where the passage shows God love for us. The **HEART** question asking us to reflect into our lives and where we have experiences with God’s redemptive and steadfast love. As people share, ask further questions about what they experienced and learned about God’s character. Some may still be on a journey with that and may not have experienced the love of God in the same as others. Be mindful and supportive that it can be difficult to explain the love of God in our broken world. The **HANDS** question challenges us to show God’s love to others from our own hearts and additionally how the group can love others better, collectively. How do you let God’s love transform your relationship with Him and those around you daily?

## **After Group** *(leading intentionally)*

The overwhelming, everlasting, reckless love of God is redemptive, restorative and reminds us that with Him, all things are possible. As you talk through what it looks and feels like to live in that kind of love, many stories will surface. Some may have questions or express feelings of loneliness and/or hurt. Others will likely share with grateful hearts if they have been blessed to experience redemption in their story. Be present for your people in both scenarios. Celebrate with joy for the love stories and follow up with those who have not. Sometimes it’s just a matter of perspective and time. His timing is perfect, and His sovereignty will always prevail.

## **Leader Announcements** *(for you specifically)*

As a church we want to make sure that we’re caring well for one another. Part of doing so is meeting people where they’re at. For many, Life Group is a great place to be seen, be heard and to find community. Yet for some, their current season of life might call for a deeper dive into where they’re at specifically. At Southeast we offer Support Groups that provide care for these exact seasons of life. Click [here](#) to find out more about these 8 additional Support Groups.

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## **FACILITATOR PAGE |** *(Reproducible Process/Overall Alignment)*

### **Welcome | Opening Prayer | Highs & Lows** *(5 mins.)*

### **Weekly Vision Checklist** *(Intentional Leader - 5 mins.)*

- *Announcements (see bottom of Leader Page)*
- *Our Why (Jesus commands us to make disciples. Mt. 28:18-19)*
- *Our Goal (spiritual growth in becoming disciple makers)*
- *Our How (is Life Groups, cast a vision around importance of branching)*
- *Guidelines (setting the rails for healthy discussion)*
  - *Confidentiality (what's said here stays here)*
  - *Avoid Crosstalk (no side conversations while others are sharing)*
  - *Avoid Fixing & Rescuing (fight the urge to jump in and save)*
  - *Use I Statements (avoid using general terms, speak personally)*
  - *Contribute Over Consume (everyone is encouraged to participate)*
  - *Be Mindful of Self (allow all to share and use humor responsibly)*

### **Hook Question** *(a related thought-provoking question- 5 mins.)*

What's the most loving gesture you've ever received?

### **Recap the Message** *(frame the discussion - 5 mins.)*

Read Psalm 130 out loud and then get 1 or 2 takeaways from the message.

### **Implications** *(discussion questions based off the underlined implications - 5 mins.)*

1. There is nothing we can do to earn more of God's love.
2. There is nothing we can do to make God love us less.
3. God is not trying to find ways to keep us out of heaven.
4. You have value because God made you.

### **Discussion Questions** *(going beyond the surface- 55 mins.)*

- **HEAD** - Read Psalm 130:7 and Lamentations 3:22 out loud. What does this passage say to you about God's love?
- **HEART** – Because of God's steadfast love there is plentiful redemption. Has God redeemed your story, how so? \*If someone in your group is awaiting redemption, that's ok. Encourage them by re-reading Psalm 130:5-6.
- **HANDS** – How can we imitate this kind of love, personally, and as a group collectively?

### **Prayer Prompts** *(Scripture-fed, Spirit-led, Worship-based prayer prompts – 10 mins.)*

Read Psalm 130 then pray through the following prompts.

Father the way that you love us tells me that you are \_\_\_\_\_.

Because you love us in that way, I know that I can overcome \_\_\_\_\_.

God I will seek to show that kind of love towards others when \_\_\_\_\_.

You have shown me this kind of love and I can choose to show it towards \_\_\_\_\_.