

**GROUP STUDY GUIDE,
SERMON NOTES &
PRAYER JOURNAL**

Fall 2020

**FIND YOUR
COMMUNITY**

“EVERYBODY ALWAYS” BOOK STUDY

Getting Started

We are so excited to be in community with you this fall! As we often say around here, “We’re better together!” And, we say it because it’s true. God wired us up to be in community with one another, not to do life alone. We read about this in Acts 2:42-47:

*“All the believers devoted themselves to the **apostles’ teaching**, and to **fellowship**, and to **sharing in meals** (including the Lord’s Supper), and to **prayer**.”*

A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They **worshiped together** at the Temple each day, **met in homes for the Lord’s Supper**, and **shared their meals with great joy and generosity**— all the while **praising God** and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. **And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.**”

Over the course of these next five weeks we invite you to be in **fellowship** with one another, **share meals** with one another, **pray** for one another, **worship** with one another, and **grow** with one another as you dive in to “Everybody Always” and the provided weekly teachings. This study guide was created to serve as a resource to help you and your group do just that! If you have any questions as you journey through this together, please reach out to one of our Hope campuses where a member of our team would love to connect with you.

We pray these next few weeks are a blessing to you, and that you experience God’s love for you in amazing ways!

FIND YOUR
COMMUNITY

IN THIS GUIDE

The following is a guide for your group as you meet and discuss each week's readings. It includes time for prayer, discussion, Bible readings, links to provided teaching videos by Hope pastors, challenges for the week ahead, and fun icebreakers. This is simply a guide. Feel free to tweak however your group needs or prefers.

In addition, we've provided pages for prayer journaling and notetaking during worship. We encourage you to use these pages as you feel called throughout these five weeks!



TABLE OF CONTENTS

3Session 1
9 Session 2
15 Session 3
21 Session 4
27 Session 5

SESSION 1:

“LOVE PEOPLE WHERE YOU ARE”

PRE-READING: Prologue – Chapter 3

OPENING PRAYER:

Take a few minutes to open your group meeting in prayer. Thank God for joining you, ask him to guide your conversation, and request that he reveal his truth to you.

ICEBREAKER. Pick an icebreaker your group comes up with on their own.

Or, an idea for one is:

Have everyone in your group share their favorite book of all-time.



WATCH TEACHING VIDEO TOGETHER:

lutheranchurchofhope.org/teaching-video

Pastor Jeremy Johnson

BIBLE READING:

John 13:1-17;31-35

Read Aloud:

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

Jesus replied, “You don’t understand now what I am doing, but someday you will.”

“No,” Peter protested, “you will never ever wash my feet!”

Jesus replied, “Unless I wash you, you won’t belong to me.”

Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!"

Jesus replied, "A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you." For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them..."

As soon as Judas left the room, Jesus said, "The time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory, and God will be glorified because of him. And since God receives glory because of the Son, he will give his own glory to the Son, and he will do so at once. Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer. And as I told the Jewish leaders, you will search for me, but you can't come where I am going. So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What stood out to you most from these first few chapters? What is something you learned or were reminded of?
2. What is love? How is it different, and so much more, than people expect?
3. How do we, subconsciously or consciously, let people know who we are? How do we prove our identity? How do people know that we follow Jesus?
4. What barriers do we tend to put up between ourselves and "creepy" people? How can we tear down those barriers?
5. Where have you found yourself trying to win an argument instead of trying to connect with a person? Who do you disagree with the most? What would those people say about your identity? Who are your enemies? How do we love those we disagree with?

CLOSING PRAYER. End your time in prayer however your group chooses or feels comfortable. As an option, you can:

Circle Prayer

Sit in a circle and give everyone in your group one minute to share a prayer request. Then, have someone start the group prayer by praying for the person to their left. Go around the circle, so that everyone has prayed for someone else and been prayed for themselves.

Application:

Loving Your Enemy

Think of someone you disagree with, struggle to get along with, or has made your life difficult. Find a way to bless them this week. Do something surprisingly kind for them.

NOTES:

Lined area for notes, consisting of 20 horizontal lines.



PRAYER JOURNALING

Journaling is a wonderful way to talk to God. We invite you to use the following pages during your prayer time as you read through *Everybody Always* with your group.

Date: _____

Today I read _____ **chapter(s)**

Takeaways as I read...

_____ *How I can apply this to my life...* _____



Dear God,

Teach me...

You are...

I confess...

I'm thankful for...

Specific Prayer Requests:

Amen.

SESSION 2:

“CATCH PEOPLE ON THE BOUNCE”

PRE-READING: Chapters 4-8

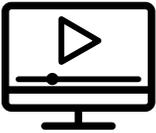
OPENING PRAYER:

Take a few minutes to open your group meeting in prayer. Thank God for joining you, ask him to guide your conversation, and request that he reveal his truth to you.

ICEBREAKER. Pick an icebreaker your group comes up with on their own.

Or, an idea for one is:

Have everyone in your group share their favorite movie of all-time.



WATCH TEACHING VIDEO TOGETHER:

lutheranchurchofhope.org/teaching-video

Pastor Amanda Neppel

BIBLE READING:

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Read Aloud:

If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless.

When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Which of the stories from chapters 4-8 stood out to you? Why do you think that story caught your attention so much?
2. When is the last time someone's kindness caught you by surprise? Who was it and what did they do? Why was that act so memorable to you?
3. On pages 41 & 42, Bob talks about building castles. He mentions some of the things we build castles out of, and it's easy to do. What is it about castles that get in the way of the kingdom? What are some examples of "castles?"
4. Consider the pig farmer story. You can read about it in Mark 5. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where something God might have been doing in another person's life caused a rather big interruption in yours? Did you see it for what it was at the time?
5. Have you ever found yourself trying to convince someone to believe something? What is it about Bob's approach to sharing Jesus that seems counter cultural and difficult?

CLOSING PRAYER. End your time in prayer however your group chooses or feels comfortable. As an option, you can:

Popcorn Prayer

Ask someone in your group to start the group prayer and someone else to finish the group prayer. After the first person is done praying, allow group members to "pop" in at random times to insert their own short prayer for themselves, others, or the group. Once everyone is finished, or there is minute of silence, the "finisher" will complete the group prayer time.

Application:

Random Acts of Kindness

Find time this week to complete three random acts of kindness for strangers. Get creative! Keep an eye out for people who look like they may be in need. You're showing them God's love through each act.

PRAYER JOURNALING

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Date: _____

Today I read _____ **chapter(s)**

Takeaways as I read...

_____ *How I can apply this to my life...* _____



Dear God,

Teach me...

You are...

I confess...

I'm thankful for...

Specific Prayer Requests:

Amen.

SESSION 3:

“DON'T PLAY IT SAFE”

PRE-READING: Chapters 9-13

OPENING PRAYER:

Take a few minutes to open your group meeting in prayer. Thank God for joining you, ask him to guide your conversation, and request that he reveal his truth to you.

ICEBREAKER. Pick an icebreaker your group comes up with on their own.

Or, an idea for one is:

Have everyone in your group share their favorite television show of all-time.



WATCH TEACHING VIDEO TOGETHER:

lutheranchurchofhope.org/teaching-video

Pastor Jon Anenson and Pastor Michael Hurst

BIBLE READING:

1 John 4:7-18

Read Aloud:

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love.

God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.

Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. We love each other because he loved us first.

If someone says, "I love God," but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What stood out from this week's reading? What was a line that you underlined or highlighted? Why did that stick out to you?
2. Page 87 says, "Playing it safe doesn't move us forward or help us grow; it just finds us where we are and leaves us in the same condition it found us in." Being human means we manage tension between safety and growth. What role has fear played in your life? Where do you think God might be asking you to take a chance – even though you don't have all the green lights you'd like to have?
3. Page 91 asks, "Don't ignore the green lights you already have. What delights you? What fires your imagination? What fills you with a deep sense of meaning and purpose? What draws you closer to God?"
4. Think of a time when you did step out in faith, trusting things would work out. What was the situation? What happened? What did you learn? Has God built on that experience, asking you to go out even deeper into trust?
5. Who is someone you already have semi-regular interactions with, maybe three minutes at a time, and there might be a possibility to grow that relationship? Notice what Bob didn't do...he didn't fix anything in Adrian's life, he was just present and genuine and it sounds like their families did life together. Honestly, can you see yourself taking that step?
6. Who is someone you admire, and what do you admire about them? How do they challenge you? Is it possible to be inspired or challenged by someone and not ending up playing comparison with them? What do you think is the key to being challenged but not discouraged (as happens with comparisons)?

CLOSING PRAYER. End your time in prayer however your group chooses or feels comfortable. As an option, you can:

Prayer Partners

Split your group up into smaller groups of 2-3 people. Set a timer for five minutes and allow each person to share a prayer request with their partner(s). Allow each pair to pray together before coming back as a bigger group to wrap up your group meeting.

Application:

Grow a Relationship

Think of someone that you see on a semi-regular basis, but don't have much of a relationship with. Find ways to develop a genuine relationship with that person. Ask them questions about their life and reveal something new about yourself. Try to find what the two of you have in common that you didn't already know.

NOTES:

Horizontal lines for notes.



PRAYER JOURNALING

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Date: _____

Today I read _____ **chapter(s)**

Takeaways as I read...

_____ *How I can apply this to my life...* _____



Dear God,

Teach me...

You are...

I confess...

I'm thankful for...

Specific Prayer Requests:

Amen.

SESSION 4:

“LOOK AT WHAT'S IN YOUR BUCKET”

PRE-READING: Chapters 14-18

OPENING PRAYER:

Take a few minutes to open your group meeting in prayer. Thank God for joining you, ask him to guide your conversation, and request that he reveal his truth to you.

ICEBREAKER. Pick an icebreaker your group comes up with on their own. Or, an idea for one is:

Have everyone in your group share their favorite artist or band of all-time.



WATCH TEACHING VIDEO TOGETHER:

lutheranchurchofhope.org/teaching-video

Jamie Richards, Young Adults (REVIVE) Minister

BIBLE READING:

Romans 12:9-21

Read Aloud:

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say,

"I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the LORD.

*Instead,
"If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads."*

Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What was your favorite chapter this week? What was it about that chapter that stood out to you? How can you apply that concept to your everyday life?
2. What big idea do you have that you've not pursued because you didn't know if it would work? Who have you wanted to reach out to in love but were afraid you'd be rejected? Who has broken your heart? Who took advantage of you in a business deal? Who misunderstood you? Who do you need to forgive?
3. Bob says on page 144, "Their mistake was simple. In fact, it's the one I make almost every day; they just didn't recognize these people were actually Jesus." Who do you encounter who might be Jesus? Have you thought about it that way before? Who is it easy for you to imagine as Jesus, and who is more difficult? How does that change our interactions with others?
4. Have you identified the person you spend three minutes at a time with (from last session's questions)? Remember we're not trying to evangelize them, we're trying to have a genuine relationship with them. Have you felt compelled to take a step forward and try something new as a result of the reading and discussions? How can you reach out to that person again this week?

CLOSING PRAYER. End your time in prayer however your group chooses or feels comfortable. As an option, you can:

Recite the Lord's Prayer together as a group...

*"Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.*

PRAYER JOURNALING

Journaling is a wonderful way to talk to God. We invite you to use the following pages during your prayer time as you read through *Everybody Always* with your group.

Date: _____

Today I read _____ **chapter(s)**

Takeaways as I read...

_____ *How I can apply this to my life...* _____



Dear God,

Teach me...

You are...

I confess...

I'm thankful for...

Specific Prayer Requests:

Amen.

SESSION 5:

“LOVE EVEN THE DIFFICULT PEOPLE”

PRE-READING: Chapters 19-24

OPENING PRAYER:

Take a few minutes to open your group meeting in prayer. Thank God for joining you, ask him to guide your conversation, and request that he reveal his truth to you.

ICEBREAKER. Pick an icebreaker your group comes up with on their own.

Or, an idea for one is:

Have everyone in your group share their favorite song of all-time.



WATCH TEACHING VIDEO TOGETHER:

lutheranchurchofhope.org/teaching-video

Pastor Scott Rains

BIBLE READING:

Matthew 5:43-48

Read Aloud:

You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How is your life working for the people around you? If you were going to carry around a bucket, what would you put in it? What would the people around you say would be a good thing for you to put in your bucket?
2. Imagine you go out of your way to get to know someone who is nothing like you. You have no purpose other than to love them. What is the actual worst thing that could happen? Can we do this? Why wouldn't we do this?
3. What do you think about Bob's comments that Kabi might be exactly who Jesus was talking about when he spoke of our enemies? How did this story sit with you the first time you heard it? Be honest. When you think

PRAYER JOURNALING

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Takeaways as I read...

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Dear God,

Teach me...

You are...

I confess...

I'm thankful for...

Specific Prayer Requests:

Amen.



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