



# GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

## BREAKING THE ICE

Share a story about an experience you thought would be easy but turned out to be difficult (ex. home improvement project, Pinterest fails, etc).

What's the hardest thing you have ever done? What made it so difficult?



## MAIN CONTENT

Over the last few weeks, we've been in our "Larger than Likes" series and discussing what it means to have influence in our lives. Last week we asked you to spend some time talking with God about how He can help build your character through prayer, confession and obedience.

1. What did God reveal to you about your character in the last week?
2. How did you spend time drawing near to Him and practicing obedience in the last week?

This week, Pastor Chris talked about how truly loving someone the way Jesus loves isn't as easy as it sounds but it's part of our influence.

We started with the story of Jesus instructing His disciples to love others (John 13:33-36). What we see in this scripture is the disciples skimming over the direction to love others because they are more concerned about Jesus leaving. We all hear the commandment to love others and think, "that's easy." But to truly love others well, we must love like Christ.





# GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

## MAIN CONTENT

We see a few places in scripture where we've been given the command to love like Jesus but we've created a few loopholes on what we think loving means. (Leviticus 19:18 and Luke 6:31)

3. Where have you created loopholes in how you love people in your life?

4. What kind of standard have you created, or inadvertently created, to love others in your life? At what point in your relationships with others, do you say, "I'm fine as long as they don't \_\_\_\_\_."?

The best example of love is Jesus. He loved sacrificially, overtly and unconditionally, with no loopholes. To love like Him we look at Romans 12.

Read Romans 12

Pastor Chris gave us four steps on how to love sacrificially.

The first way to love others well is that you must **Hear People**, pay attention to their stories. Everyone makes sense in light of their stories. When you stop and listen to someone's story you may find out about life-changing experiences that shaped the person into who they are today.

5. When is the last time you stopped to hear someone's story? How did it change your perspective of that person?

Another way to love well is to **Help People**. When you help someone, your brain releases serotonin, which has been shown to make you feel better. Helping both people you love, and people you don't know is vital in showing love to others.

6. Describe a time when you helped someone and it affected your mood. How did it make you feel?

---

---



# GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

## MAIN CONTENT

The third way to love well is to **See People**. It's easy for us to get caught up in our own tasks, agendas, goals and what we need to do. It takes time and intentionality to stop and see someone, to value them and to put them before you.

7. Describe a time when you felt “seen” by someone and how that made you feel.

The last way to love well is to **Be with People**. When you make time to sit with someone and just be there for them they feel loved. But it's important not to just be with people like you, you need to create a time and place to be with people who are not like you.

8. When is the last time you showed up for someone in a sacrificial way?

9. Where is God prompting you to be with someone who isn't like you?

The good thing is there are no loopholes for God to love you. He loves you sacrificially and unconditionally and He calls us to love others the same way.





# GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

## PRAYER

Loving father, thank you for sacrificially caring and loving us so well. We know we are all a work in progress that you are working on every day. Will you show us where we fall short of loving others as Jesus loves us? Holy Spirit, guide us to love others well. Open our eyes to see those you've called us to love that we may not see. In your name, Amen.

## ACTION STEP

This week, take a few minutes to do the homework Pastor Chris talked about at the end of the message.

Draw three rectangles side by side.

- + In the middle rectangle write your name.
- + In the rectangle to the left, write the name of someone who has loved you well.
- + In the rectangle to the right, write the name of someone you could love better.

Let the person on the left (who has loved you well), know how well they have loved you and how they have loved you.

For the name on the right, think about and practice loving them better this week.

