



Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series: The Movement: Week 2 (July 2, 2023)

This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and groups to use it. When we hear God's Word, we need to do more than listen. The bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only" (James 1:22). Step 1: GATHER with your family or group. Step 2: REVIEW and DISCUSS the key points and scriptures from the sermon. Step 3: PRAY for the prayer requests shared by your family or group.

DISCUSSION STARTER

Think about a time when you lost something of value to you or something you really loved. How did it make you feel? How hard and how long did you search for it? Did you ever find it? How did that make you feel?

DIGGING DEEPER 1

Read Luke 19:1-10. Using <https://biblehub.com/> or <https://www.blueletterbible.org/> look up the word "seek". What is the Greek word and what does it mean? God is zealous in His seeking for the lost. Pray that He would give His church that same zeal. Why wouldn't the religious Jews consider Zacchaeus a son of Abraham? What did Jesus do for him? Jesus not only seeks outsiders and outlaws, but He saves them. How have you personally experienced the seeking or saving power of Jesus in your life? What are some ways Jesus has changed and is changing you? If you are not a follower of Jesus, in light of this good news, what things keep you from wanting to put your trust in Jesus? How can you currently seek to build relationships with people who want nothing to do with Christianity and church? What action steps can you take this week with specific people in your life?

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Read Ephesians 4:32; 5:1-2; Romans 11:36, 12:1. In Eph. 5:1 and Rom. 12:1 we see the word "therefore". Whenever we see the word "therefore" in scripture we must ask ourselves, "what is it there for?" We must go back to Eph. 4:32 to understand the "therefore" of Eph. 5:1-2 and Rom. 11:36 to understand the "therefore" of Rom. 12:1. What does it mean to be imitators of God? How are we to walk as imitators of our Lord Jesus Christ? What does the verb "walk" communicate as it relates to how we are to love? What does it mean to walk in love? Why is it important for us to look to God, to his word, and to Christ to know what true love is? How might we get love wrong if left to ourselves? What was the extent of Christ's love for us? Jesus willingly gave Himself as an offering and a sacrifice. What does Rom. 12:1 say we are to do? Why? How can we accomplish this?

DIGGING DEEPER 3

Read Ezekiel 18:31-23. If we are going to be fruitful followers of Christ who do His will and carry out His desire, we must be intentional about actively pursuing the lost, whether they are rich or poor, addicted, disabled, sick, ignorant, homeless, or unsophisticated. This passage in Ezekiel expresses the heart of God for His creation, and as imitators of Him should cause us to express His heart by actively seeking those who are lost. **Read Jeremiah 31:3.** How does God pursue us? All through scripture God actively pursues us with an everlasting love. List several examples of this active pursuit in scripture from the Old and New Testaments. What are you doing to actively pursue the lost around you? **Read Matthew 3:7-9; Colossians 1:9-10; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:1-3.** What are the fruits of repentance? What is God's will for us and all humanity? What is His desire? How should this change our desires?

DOING THE WORD

Through these passages we have been challenged to consider our attitude toward the lost. Jesus stretched the boundaries of what was acceptable for a religious person. He had a radical position on associating with sinners. He expressed love, friendship, and acceptance first and truth when necessary. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost, it was his passion which he devoted His life to. He was constantly surrounded by the lost and he made them feel that though they were lost sheep He was their compassionate shepherd. Each one of us was once lost, filthy and beyond hope, but by the grace of Jesus we have been found. There are many good things we can do for God, and they are very valuable. But as Christians we are called to pattern our life after the life of Jesus. If he was the friend of sinners, seeking the lost, then somehow, we need to find the way to do the same. Let us then engage in the work of God to seek the lost in our neighborhood and communities and fill God's house with the lost.