



MANNA CHURCH HAWAII - SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Aug 30, 2026 | This Is Who We Are - Part 2: Love Each Other

ICEBREAKER QUESTION: If you could take 2-3 friends on a free trip anywhere, who would you take and where would you go?

MESSAGE SUMMARY & SCRIPTURES:

This week, we are looking at the second of our Three Loves: Love Each Other. Jesus calls us to love God and love our neighbor (Matthew 22:36-40), and He calls us to go and make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20). We believe God created every person on purpose and for a purpose, and part of our mission at Manna is to equip people to discover, develop, and deploy what God has placed in them. We cannot fully live the life Jesus intended for us by doing it alone. Jesus Himself lived a life marked by deep, life-giving relationships. John 10:10 says He came so that we may have life abundantly, and that abundant life is experienced through relationship with God and with His people.

In Mark 2:1-12, we see four friends bring a paralyzed man to Jesus. The crowd was so large that they could not get through the door, so they literally opened the roof and lowered their friend down to Jesus. These men were willing to do whatever it took to get their friend into the presence of Jesus. The story reminds us that Jesus calls us out of the crowd and into community. Like the paralyzed man, all of us have areas of brokenness, even when they are not visible to everyone else. We need people who know the real us, who will walk with us through our struggles and victories, and who will help bring us back to Jesus when we need it. Jesus also met the man's deepest need first by forgiving his sins before healing his body (Mark 2:5-11). God cares about every part of our lives, and He often brings healing, encouragement, accountability, and restoration through His people.

When we choose the lifestyle Jesus modeled, our relationships become more than something that benefits us. Our relationships become a witness to the world. Jesus said, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). The world is full of people who are hurting, isolated, and searching for belonging. Our families, friendships, workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and small groups can become places where people experience the love of Jesus through us. We do not need to have perfect lives or perfect relationships. We simply need to be people who love well, show up for one another, and point each other toward Jesus. This is who we are: we love each other through life-giving relationships, because Jesus first loved us.

GOING DEEPER: (break up into groups of no more than 4-6 for discussion)

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from the message or the summary?
2. What makes it easier to open up and be yourself around some people but harder around others? 3. The four friends in Mark 2 were willing to go out of their way to bring their friend to Jesus. Who are the people in your life who help you stay close to Jesus, and how have they helped you? 4. What do you think it looks like for a Christian community to help someone experience healing, encouragement, or freedom without trying to "fix" them? **ACTION STEP:** Who is one person God may be inviting you to intentionally move from the crowd into community with this week? What is one step you can take to reach out or simply show up for them?

PRAYER: (break up into groups of 2-3 for prayer):

Father, thank You for loving us first and giving us people to walk with as we follow You. Help us build relationships where people feel known, loved, encouraged, and pointed back to Jesus. Use our relationships to show a hurting world what Your love looks like and draw people closer to You. Amen.



MANNA CHURCH HAWAII - SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Aug 30, 2026 | This Is Who We Are - Part 2: Love Each Other

MANNAYOUTH DISCUSSION GUIDE

ICEBREAKER QUESTION: If you could take 2-3 friends on a free trip anywhere, who would you take and where would you go? What would you guys do there?

MESSAGE SUMMARY & SCRIPTURES:

This week, we are looking at the second of our Three Loves: Love Each Other. Jesus calls us to love God and love the people around us (Matthew 22:36-40), and He calls us to go and make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20). God created every person with a purpose and has given each of us gifts and abilities that He wants to use. At Manna, we want to help people discover, grow, and use what God has placed in them. But we were never meant to follow Jesus alone. Jesus built deep relationships with people, and He showed us how important it is to have people around us who know us, support us, challenge us, and help us grow. (John 10:10)

In Mark 2:1-12, four friends brought a paralyzed man to Jesus. The crowd was so big that they couldn't get through the door, so they opened the roof and lowered their friend down to Jesus. They were willing to do whatever it took because they believed Jesus could help him. This story reminds us that following Jesus is not just about showing up in a crowd. We need real community. We all have things we are dealing with, whether it's stress at school, homework, pressure from sports, family situations, friendship drama, or things we don't talk about with everyone. We need people who know the real us, pray for us, encourage us, and help us get back to Jesus when we're struggling. Jesus also showed that He cares about more than what people can see on the outside. He first forgave the man's sins and then healed him (Mark 2:5-11). God cares about every part of our lives, and He often uses other people to bring encouragement, healing, accountability, and restoration.

When we choose to love people the way Jesus did, our relationships become more than just friendships that make us feel good. They become a way for people to experience Jesus. Jesus said, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). There are people at our schools, on our sports teams, in our families, online, and in our neighborhoods who may feel lonely, left out, or like they don't belong. We don't need perfect friendships or perfect lives to make a difference. We can simply be people who notice others, include people, check in on friends, listen without judging, show up when someone is struggling, and point people toward Jesus. This is who we are: we love each other through real, life-giving relationships because Jesus first loved us.

GOING DEEPER: (break up into groups of no more than 4-6 for discussion)

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from the message or the summary?
2. What makes it easier to be yourself and open up around some people but harder around others?
3. The four friends in Mark 2 went out of their way to bring their friend to Jesus. Who are the people in your life who help you stay close to Jesus? How have they helped you?
4. What does it look like to help someone who is struggling without trying to fix everything for them? **ACTION STEP:**
Who is one person at school, on your team, at home, or in your friend group that you can intentionally reach out to this week? What is one simple thing you can do to let them know they are not alone?

PRAYER: (break up into groups of 2-3 for prayer):

Father, thank You for loving us first and giving us people to walk through life with. Help us build friendships where people feel known, loved, included, and encouraged. Give us eyes to notice people who feel alone or are struggling, and help us point them toward Jesus through the way we love and care for them. Amen.

The Great Commandment: Matthew 22:36-40 “Teacher, which command in the law is the greatest?” 37 He said to him, “**Love the Lord your God** with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. 38 This is the greatest and most important command. 39 The second is like it: **Love your neighbor as yourself**. 40 All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”

The Great Commission: Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus came near and said to them, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Love _____

Love _____

Love the _____

1 John 4:19 ESV We love because he **first** loved us.

Referenced Scripture: Mark 2:1-12 ESV

John 10:10 ESV I came that they may have **life** and have it **abundantly**.

ESV Study Bible Commentary: “Jesus calls his followers to a rich, full, joyful life, one overflowing with meaning under the personal favor and **blessing of God** and in continual **fellowship with his people**.”

“If you want to experience the _____ **of Jesus**, you have to adopt the _____ **of Jesus**.” John Comer

Jesus calls us out of the _____ and into _____

We experience God’s _____ through God’s _____

Our relationships are a _____ to the _____

John 13:35 ESV By this **all people** will know that you are my disciples, if you have **love for one another**.

Disciple = A follower of Jesus who hears from God and does what He says

Discussion Guide/Going Deeper:



Growth Track:



Small Group Signup:

