

Fusion Church Madison – Small Group Discussion Guide

Date: Sunday, April 12, 2026

Message Title: *Pillars: What Holds Us Together – Real Relationships*

Scripture: Matthew 22:34–40

Message Overview

In this message, Pastor Matt Alexander taught that the foundation of authentic faith is not religious performance, but **real, Christ-centered relationships**. Jesus makes it clear in Matthew 22:34–40 that everything in the Christian life depends on two commands: loving God completely and loving others sacrificially.

From this passage, we see three key truths:

A Passionate Love for God

Our relationship with God must be wholehearted—heart, soul, and mind. This is not about outward religion, but a real, growing relationship with Him.

A Practical Love for Others

Loving others is inseparable from loving God. True faith is demonstrated through actions—serving, forgiving, and caring for people.

A Pervasive Love That Shapes Everything

Love is not just one part of the Christian life—it is the foundation that holds everything together. Without love, faith becomes empty and disconnected.

The message challenges us to evaluate our relationships—with God and with others—and to take intentional steps toward deeper, more authentic community.

Discussion Questions

Icebreaker:

What is one relationship in your life (past or present) that has had a big impact on your faith?

Understanding the Message:

Why do you think Jesus said that loving God and loving others are the greatest commandments?

Personal Reflection – Loving God:

What does it look like in your daily life to love God with your heart, soul, and mind?

Where do you feel challenged in this area?

Personal Reflection – Loving Others:

Who is someone in your life that God may be calling you to love more intentionally right now?

Faith in Action:

The message said love is not just a feeling but an action.

What is one practical way you can show love to someone this week?

Relationships & Growth:

Why is it difficult sometimes to build real, Christ-centered relationships?

What barriers do people face?

Community Check:

Are you currently in meaningful Christian community (small group, tribe, etc.)?

If not, what is holding you back?

Next Steps:

Which of these areas do you need to grow in most right now:

Loving God more deeply

Loving others more intentionally

Building stronger Christian community

What is one step you will take this week?

Leader Guide – Suggested Answers

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Message: Real Relationships – Pastor Matt Alexander

1. Icebreaker:

What is one relationship that has had a big impact on your faith?

Sample Answer:

A parent, grandparent, pastor, or mentor who modeled faith consistently. Many people grow spiritually because someone showed them what it looks like to follow Jesus in everyday life.

Leader Tip:

Encourage storytelling—this builds connection right away.

2. Why did Jesus say loving God and others are the greatest commandments?

Sample Answer:

Because everything in the Christian life flows from love. If we truly love God, we will obey Him. And if we love others, we reflect God's heart. These two commands summarize all of God's law.

Key Insight:

Love is not just one command—it is the foundation of all obedience.

3. What does it look like to love God with your heart, soul, and mind?

Sample Answer:

Heart: Passion and affection for God (worship, desire for Him)

Soul: Commitment and surrender (living for Him daily)

Mind: Thinking rightly about God (Scripture, truth, renewing thoughts)

Challenge Area:

Many people struggle with distractions, routine faith, or divided priorities.

4. Who is someone God may be calling you to love more intentionally?

Sample Answer:

A difficult coworker or classmate

A family member needing forgiveness

Someone overlooked or lonely

A person you've avoided

Leader Tip:

Encourage specific names — not general answers.

5. What is one practical way you can show love this week?

Sample Answer:

Send an encouraging message

Forgive someone

Spend time with someone who feels alone

Serve someone without being asked

Pray specifically for someone and tell them

Key Truth:

Love becomes real when it becomes action.

6. Why is it difficult to build real, Christ-centered relationships?

Sample Answer:

- Fear of vulnerability
- Busyness and full schedules
- Past hurt or broken trust
- Pride or independence
- Surface-level culture (keeping things shallow)

Leader Insight:

Real relationships require risk, time, and intentionality.

7. Are you in meaningful Christian community? What holds people back?

Sample Answer:

Some are connected through small groups or “Tribes,” but others hesitate because of:

- Time constraints
- Feeling like they don’t belong
- Fear of being known
- Not wanting to commit

Truth to Emphasize:

Spiritual growth was never meant to happen alone (Hebrews 10:24–25).

8. Which area do you need to grow in most, and what step will you take?

Sample Answer:

Loving God more deeply: Spend daily time in prayer and Scripture

Loving others more intentionally: Reach out to one specific person this week

Building community: Join or recommit to a small group

Encourage Specific Steps:

“I will call ___ this week,” or “I will attend ___ group.”

Closing Prayer Prompt

Pray together as a group:

Ask God to deepen your love for Him

Ask for courage to love others intentionally

Ask God to strengthen relationships within your group and church