



# LIFEgroup STUDY GUIDE

## What you will need to supplement this guide:

1. A copy of the outline provided for notes on this message (copy from message or downloaded from the COASTAL APP).
2. A Bible or Bible APP to refer to verses.

## **PURSUING LIFE TOGETHER** *SUNDAY MESSAGE REVIEW*

**NOTE to the LIFEgroup Leader:** This guide is provided as a tool to assist you in facilitating a structured discussion with your group. When used in conjunction with the outline notes and a Bible this tool will ensure that your group will *Engage Authentically*. The questions are merely recommended “talk starters”. It is important for you to let God help you navigate through the conversation as you *pursue life together* as a group.

### **OPEN IN PRAYER**

### **STARTER QUESTIONS:**

**Where have you seen God at work in your life since we last met?**

**What stood out to you from the message this week?**

### **MAIN IDEA:**

- REVIEW THE MAIN TOPIC OF THE MESSAGE. Allow time for discussion
- READ THE MAIN SCRIPTURE FROM THE MESSAGE OUTLINE.

**How did this verse speak to you in your life?**

- REVIEW THE SUB-TOPICS of the MESSAGE.

Have someone read each of the verses that were highlighted in the message, and briefly discuss.

**Is there an area that you feel God is speaking to you through this message?**

### **FINAL THOUGHTS:**

- SUMMARIZE the main idea of this message.

**Would anyone like to share your thoughts about what we discussed today?**

**How can we pray for you as a group?**

### **CLOSE IN PRAYER**

## UNBREAKABLE THREAD

“Love is Not Selfish”

"Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other." Karl - age 5

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs." Chrissy - age 6

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." Terri - age 4

"Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK." Danny - age 7

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day." Mary Ann - age 4

"I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones." Lauren - age 4

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love." Rebecca - age 8

*“Love is patient. Love is kind. Love does not envy. Love does not boast and is not puffed up, It is not rude. **It is not selfish.**”* 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (RGT)

Love: “...does not insist on its own way.” (RSV)

Love “...doesn't force its rightful claim.” (NTFE)

Love “...never thinks of itself.” (NLV)

Love “...never thinks **just** of herself.” (ISV)

Love “...does not pursue selfish advantage.” (Phillips)

Love “...is not self-absorbed.” (VOICE)

### 3 forms of popular self-expression in our society today:

Individualism -- “I don't need you.”

Secularism -- “I don't need God.”

Narcissism -- “All that really matter is me.”

### Greek:

- Ou = “No”
- Zeteo = “Seek”
- Heautou = “Self”

Love “...is not selfish.” (RGT)

## How to Break the Power of Selfishness

The Story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19)

*“Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.”*  
Luke 19:1-4 (NIV)

### How to Break the Power of Selfishness

- Get as close to Jesus as you can

His Teaching

His Example

Jesus *“humbled himself even further, going so far as actually to die a criminal’s death on a cross.”*  
Philippians 2:8 (TLB)

His Spirit

*“When he comes, (The Holy Spirit) will convict the world of its sin.”*  
John 16:8 (NLT)

*“Husbands must give honor to your wives. ...Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.”*  
1 Peter 3:7 (NLT)

### How to Break the Power of Selfishness

- Welcome the Lord into your home

*“When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name! “Zacchaeus!” he said. “Quick! Come down! For I am going to be a guest in your home today!” Zacchaeus hurriedly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy.”*  
Luke 19:5-6 (TLB)

Jesus said: *“Be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what he requires of you, and he will provide you with all these other things.”*  
Matthew 6:33 (GNT)

*“Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, “I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!”*  
Luke 19:8 (NLT)

- Ask yourself “What would Jesus do?” And then do that!

**What’s one way you can unselfishly love someone this week?** \_\_\_\_\_

*“Jesus responded, “Salvation has come to this home today.” Luke 19:9 (NLT)*

*“May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God.”*

Ephesians 3:17-19 (NLT)