

1. Have a person read Matt. 22:34-40 and then another person read Acts 2:42-46.
  - What are the two commands Jesus describes in the Matthew passage?
  - How do the group of people mentioned in Acts 2 demonstrate the definition of a mission minded community?
  - After reading and discussing these two passages, what actions do you believe the Holy Spirit is leading you to take?
2. Next, Read 1 John 4:18-21 together.
  - What do we learn about caring for one another?
  - Where in your relationships, or community, do you sense resentment, anger, hurt, unforgiveness, or bitterness?
  - What is a healthy next step towards resolving this?
3. Finally, take a look at Colossians 3:12-17 in the ESV or AMP version.
  - List out all the ways the author describes how we as a committed group of Jesus followers can care for one another.
  - Which of those actions have you seen on display within your group?
  - How can you apply these actions to your group's mission?

#### WITH PRACTICE:

If we are to live on mission, and love our communities, we must learn to care for one another well. We learn to care by listening and understanding. Being vulnerable and sharing parts of our stories is one way to deepen our understanding for one another. The following exercise will help you practice listening and understanding: (applied from *The Other Half of the Church* - Wilder & Hendricks)

1. With each item, start by taking a minute or two to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the answer. Then take turns sharing what came to your mind.
  - A physical weakness. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal a physical weakness you are dealing with. After each person shares, the group responds out loud together with "Lord Jesus, help us."
  - A relational weakness. (Broken friendship, marriage or family problem). Repeat the same experience, pause, pray, share, recite "Lord Jesus, help us."
  - A character weakness. This can be the most vulnerable, but also essential for building trust and care.
    - Pause and pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal and show you something he likes about you.
    - Pause and pray again. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal a character weakness he wants you to share with the group.
    - Go around the circle and share what God enjoys about you and also something he would like you to work on to change.
    - After each person shares, everyone responds with "Lord Jesus, help us."
2. Close your gathering by praying over one another. Pair up and pray over what each person shared. Then commit to praying daily over these things. You may even want to connect with your prayer partner this coming week.

#### For Further Reflection . . .

Reflect upon how the following passages demonstrate a mission minded community.

- Philippians 4:4-9
- Acts 4:32-37
- Acts 5:17-42 (key verse is 42)
- Acts 11:19-30



## WEEK #2

# We Care For One Another



# Leader's Corner

This week's study will continue focusing on community. If we are to "Love Our Community," we need to learn or relearn how to live in healthy community ourselves. As your group gathers this week, we need to be reminded about the following:

**Main Idea:** We are people who care for one another.

**Main Practice:** Listen to understand each other.

**Main Teaching:** 1 John 4:18-21 - Caring for one another helps us understand God's heart for people.

Before your group gathers this week, contact each member or couple and remind them of where and when you will be meeting. As you prepare for group, take some time to pray over the following small group values we desire for every group:

- **Seen:** We create ways to notice and engage all people. Pray for everyone in your group to feel seen.
- **Safe:** We cultivate communities of grace in order to produce authentic relationships. Pray for everyone in your group to feel safe.
- **Shaped:** We train all people to become devoted disciples of Jesus. Pray for your group members to grow in their love of Jesus.
- **Sent:** We empower all disciples to make disciples. Pray for your group to boldly share and invite others into a life with Jesus.

One of the main goals for Love My Community is for every group to define their mission. This is your area of service. If your group needs help with defining a mission, please contact the small group staff ([smallgroups@eastview.church](mailto:smallgroups@eastview.church)) or utilize the serving options found at [www.eastview.church/lmc](http://www.eastview.church/lmc). There are a number of opportunities available that are waiting for you and your group to move toward.

## As We Begin . . .

- Share one thing that brought a smile to your face from the last week.
- Share a time in which you felt genuine care. What was it that touched you the most about that person or experience?

## Love My Community . . .

### WITH PRAYER:

Choose someone to pray this prayer over your gathering:

*"Jesus, accomplish your purpose with our gathering.*

*Let us prize these moments and care for one another deeply,  
Breathe life upon our gathering.*

*May we learn to care for one another in the ways you desire.*

*May your will, for us and in us, be known and received. AMEN"*

*(Adapted from Every Moment Holy – McKelvey)*

### WITH PRINCIPLE:

*"Now I ask you, lady, not as if I were writing to you a new commandment, but (simply reminding you of) the one which we had from the beginning, that we love and unselfishly seek the best for one another."*

*2 John 1:5 AMP*

We desperately need community. Not just because life is better lived with others, but also because we are all still a work in progress. We need people who know us and who will allow themselves to be known by us. We need people who will demonstrate healthy love, care, forgiveness, and correction in our lives, and we need to learn how to exemplify that for others. As Jesus trained his followers for ministry, he also helped them experience life together in community. Through this transformational community, Jesus' followers learned how to truly care and be cared for.

The big question is, "What type of community do we need?" We are glad you asked. As a church family we have been shifting the focus of community over the past number of years. The following definition comes from us learning together what a group of people in community and on mission looks like:

*We think a healthy, mission minded community is a committed group of Jesus followers, empowered by the Holy Spirit, who devote themselves to participate in God's mission of redemption in a particular place and with a particular people.*

### Let's break this definition down for a moment:

**Committed Group** = a devoted number of people (friends, family, neighbors).

**Jesus followers** = growing in Jesus.

**Empowered by the Holy Spirit** = formed and sent by the strength of the Holy Spirit.

**Devoted to a particular place and people** = with a specifically defined mission and focus for building life changing relationships.

Each of us are created for and encouraged to live intentional lives that demonstrate and proclaim Jesus with others. In order to accomplish this mission, we truly need other people around us with this same mindset. A mission minded community provides the foundation for us to thrive. This week we will dive into what it means to truly care for one another.