

SAC Small Groups Discussion Guide – Dec. 7th, 2025

This guide comes with the expectation that even if someone has missed the Sunday service, they have watched the sermon before coming to their small group.

Fellowship Time

Make sure to have time where people can chat and catch up. This section could include a dinner together, having a potluck, preparing snacks, etc. The key to this section is make people feel welcomed and seen.

Read the Scripture & Overview Aloud Together

This section contains the text and a brief summary of the sermon that was preached on Sunday. It will have the main point explained as a way to help those remember the sermon. This is not an in-depth overview because the expectation is that everyone will take the time to listen to the sermon. Make sure to read this aloud for everyone to hear.

Text

John 13:17-38

17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. 18 “I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: ‘He who shared my bread has turned against me.’ 19 “I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am. 20 Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me.” 21 After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.” 22 His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. 23 One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. 24 Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, “Ask him which one he means.” 25 Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?” 26 Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.” 28 But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. 29 Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. 30 As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night. 31 When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. 32 If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. 33 “My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. 34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” 36 Simon Peter asked him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus replied, “Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.” 37 Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” 38 Then Jesus answered, “Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!

Overview of Sermon

This week, Pastor Mike unpacked the rest of John 13 and we witnessed Jesus navigating the painful reality of betrayal by Judas and denial by Peter while continuing to love his closest friends till the end. In spite of this looming disappointment, Jesus continues to prepare them for life after Jesus has gone back to the Father. Jesus begins this section in distress by explaining to his disciples that one of them would betray him, but the disciples do not fully understand what is going to happen. It's unclear why the disciples do not fully understand Jesus despite Him being very direct, but what is clear is that Judas decides to step away from the table and from his relationship with Jesus to hand him over to the religious leaders. Throughout John, there has been a literary device between light and darkness where light means understanding/belief and darkness represents confusion/unbelief. John makes clear that this scene is during the night as Judas departs.

After Judas departs from the rest of the disciples, Jesus goes on to explain that the Son gives glory to the Father, and they share in that glory. The disciples would experience great disappointment and yet there is a divine plan set in motion by God. In the face of great disappointment, Jesus commands his disciples to love another as Jesus has loved them. Peter and Jesus have another exchange which leads Jesus to predict that Peter would deny him three times before the next morning. Jesus is preparing his disciples for His death, resurrection, and ascension which brings a mixture of disappointment and then hope later as the events unfold. Jesus meets us both in our disappointment and when we are the source of disappointment.

Discussion Questions

These questions are prompts to help the group have meaningful dialogue over the sermon this past weekend. Do not feel the need to ask all these questions. You are more than welcome to create your own questions or mix the questions together.

Connection to Other (Icebreaker/Light)

- What is more disappointing: finding out your favourite TV is cancelled in the third season or watching the final season and the ending is terrible?

Connection to Head (Study/Knowledge Questions)

- Read the passage again. Are there any words, phrases, or ideas that stand out to you?
- What does this passage teach us about Jesus?

Connection to Heart (Deeper Engagement)

- In what ways have you experienced Jesus meeting you amid unmet expectations or personal disappointment?
- Jesus gives a "new command" to love one another (v. 34-35). Why do you think Jesus emphasizes this command at this moment—right after predicting betrayal and denial? What makes this command "new"?

- Read Philippians 4:4-9 together. Paul instructs us not to be anxious but to present our requests to God. How does this passage address the disappointments we face? What stands out to you most from these verses?

Reflect and Discuss the Practice and Prayer.

This is an opportunity for accountability and formation in your group. Accountability to ensure people are practicing the practices and formation because we believe that these practices will shape and form us into the people that God intended us to be. Take time to practice this together and reflect on each person's experience of these practices.

Practice: Set aside a time each evening to light a candle and pray.

- Each night this week in the evening, take time to light a candle and pray.
- The flame of the candle reminds us of Jesus being the light of the world (John 8:12)
- Take 3-5 minutes to pray in the silence. The prayer can be as simple as, "Jesus, be the light in the midst of my disappointments".
 - o The candle can give us comfort that while darkness exists in our lives, it cannot overcome the light that we have in Jesus.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I am restless and selfish; yet I seek You, and when I find you, I find that there is no wrath to devour me but only sweet love. You stand as a rock between the scorching sun and my soul, and I live under the cool side as one of your beloved. Thank you that I can find peace in your care for me. Amen. (Adapted from The Valley of Vision by Arthur Bennett)

Prayer Together.

Take some time to pray with each other. This is not a time for gossip or to be cynical, this is an opportunity to share with each other our burdens, to celebrate and praise God together, and to pray expectantly that God would move.