

Learn to Love

Week 1

Small Group Plan

Pre-Cell Leader Checklist & Preparations

- Read through the entire Weekly Shepherd a few days prior to cell to ensure that you have a good understanding of what you will be doing and feel confident in leading your cell online meeting.
- A few days before cell, send a message to your group reminding them of your meeting and the method that you will be using to get online.
- Remind your group to watch the Learn to Love Video before cell and to complete the exercise that Stefan leads at the end of the video.
- Remind each member to have their Bible, journal, and pen available during cell.
- Pray for your cell members by name.

Relational Connect (5-10 minutes)

- Have everyone share from the weekly exercise that Stefan led us through in the video. Share what you wrote down and the impact it had on you.

The Word (10-15 minutes)

- Scripture Reading: Read 1 Cor. 13:1-7
- Personal Reflection:
 - In thinking about your life and the verses you just read. In what areas are you strong in love and in what areas are you weak in love?
 - Ask Jesus to show you an area in your life from this past week where you did not show love. In prayer, confess that to Jesus.

Discussion (15-20 minutes)

- During the video, Stefan taught us that our highest calling is to love God and love people. He explained that this love requires action. That belonging or creating belonging with someone is love in action.
 - Belonging makes us feel:
 - Understood & Valuable
 - Seen and heard
 - Loved – just as we are
 - Known and remembered
 - Like we fit in
 - Safe – we don't have to hide our weaknesses
 - At home
 - Hopeful when we are overwhelmed
- Brainstorming:
 - As a group, brainstorm different ways that you can think of to create belonging with others. Remember, creating belonging is showing love. This can be done through big or small things. Jesus said, "giving a cup of water in His name" would be rewarded.
 - Briefly write down the ideas shared by the group.

- Use examples of things you have done and that others have done for you. (e.g. *send an encouraging text, listen instead of speaking, go for coffee, forgive someone who annoys you and love them as they are, etc.*)

Homework (5 minutes)

- Pick two things from the “creating belonging” list you just made with your group and intentionally do them this week with someone you know, either in your family or a friend. Write down what you did and how it felt to create belonging with others.
- Complete 2 exercises from the Learn to Love exercise book. The exercises are devotional in nature, you can add them to the start of your devotions or do them during a different time. Each exercise should take 5 minutes to complete.

Prayer Requests (10-15 minutes)

- LOVING LIKE JESUS is impossible without his Holy Spirit. Pray for each other to be filled with the Holy Spirit and that our church body would grow in love towards God, each other and those we meet.
- Share personal prayer requests with each other. What are your biggest personal needs?
- Spend time praying for each other. You may want to break into groups of 2-3 to pray online or ask everyone to turn their speakers down (to avoid feedback) and all pray in unison together. Prayer is VITAL! Let’s tap into Jesus through prayer!

Learn to Love Cell Schedule

Date	Cell Activity
May 10 – 16	Learn to Love Lesson 1
May 17 – 23	Learn to Love Lesson 2
May 24 – 30	Learn to Love Lesson 3
May 31 – June 6	Prayer Summit, Wed June 3
June 7 – 13	Learn to Love Lesson 4
June 14 – 20	Learn to Love Lesson 5
June 21 – 27	Learn to Love Lesson 6