CHICAGO WEST
BIBLE CHURCH

ONE ANOTHER



LIVING IN AUTHENTIC AND GRACIOUS COMMUNITY

AN 11-WEEK COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY

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WELCOME FROM PASTOR JON & DANIELLE

Dear Chicago West Family,

One of our seven values is **Authentic and Gracious Community.** We believe the church is not merely a service we attend, but a Spirit-formed family in which we learn to follow Jesus together. The New Testament repeatedly describes that shared life with two simple words: *one another*.

At Chicago West, our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ as we love God and our neighbors for His glory. We believe a disciple is someone who **knows, follows, and reflects Christ**. We cannot separate our growth as disciples from the way we love, care for, and walk alongside one another.

Over the next eleven weeks, you will study commands that make Christ visible in ordinary relationships: love, devotion, kindness, forgiveness, patience, truth-telling, service, burden-bearing, submission, and encouragement. These practices are not optional extras for unusually relational Christians. They are part of what it means to belong to the body of Christ.

Our hope is not that you complete pages or produce impressive answers. We pray that you will become more honest before God, more secure in His grace, more willing to receive care, and more prepared to give yourself for the good of others.

As you walk through this study with your Community Group, remember that spiritual growth rarely happens through information alone. By the power of the Holy Spirit, God's Word transforms us as we respond in faith and obedience, often through the relationships He has placed in our lives.

May Jesus deepen our unity, stretch our love, and continue forming us into a church family that reflects Him. Our prayer is that Authentic and Gracious Community would not simply be a value we profess, but a way of life we practice together.

With love and hope in Christ,
Pastor Jon & Danielle Kelly

A NOTE TO COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS

Thank you for faithfully serving and caring for the people God has entrusted to your group. As we begin this eleven-week journey through the *One Another* commands, we want to encourage you to remember that your role is more than facilitating a Bible study. You are helping cultivate a community where people are known, cared for, and encouraged to grow as disciples of Jesus.

Prepare Prayerfully and Lead with God's Word

Before each gathering, read the passages, review the teaching, and pray for your group. Come prepared to guide meaningful conversations rooted in Scripture. You do not need to have every answer. Be willing to learn alongside your group as you encourage one another to know, follow, and reflect Christ.

Cultivate Authentic and Gracious Community

Some weeks may expose wounds, habits, fears, or conflicts. Create space for honest conversations while allowing people to move at a wise pace. Encourage vulnerability without pressuring anyone to disclose personal experiences. Listen well, make room for quieter voices, and remind your group that grace and truth belong together.

Help establish a culture of confidentiality, reminding members that personal stories shared within the group should be protected, except when safety requires appropriate help.

Encourage Participation and Practical Obedience

Each week includes opportunities for personal reflection, group discussion, and practical application. Encourage members to come prepared, engage with Scripture, and take one small, concrete step of obedience.

Remember, transformation rarely comes from information alone. By the power of the Holy Spirit, God's Word shapes us as we respond in faith and obedience. Help your group move beyond discussing the commands to practicing them in their relationships throughout the week.

A NOTE TO COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS

Shepherd with Wisdom and Know Your Limits

Community Groups are places of meaningful spiritual care, but leaders are not expected to serve as pastors, counselors, therapists, or conflict mediators. When serious concerns involving abuse, danger, addiction, trauma, or mental health arise, do not attempt to manage them alone. Involve appropriate pastoral leadership and qualified professional help as needed.

Your Community Group Care Team is available to encourage, support, and help you navigate situations requiring additional guidance. You are not leading alone.

Keep Christ at the Center

Above all, remember that Jesus is the reason we pursue authentic and gracious community. We do not practice the *One Another* commands to earn God's acceptance, but because we have received His grace and are being transformed into His likeness.

Lead with humility, patience, prayer, and love. Trust the Holy Spirit to do the work of transformation as you faithfully point your group to Christ.

Thank you for helping make Authentic and Gracious Community more than a stated value at Chicago West. May it become a way of life among us.

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

The Rhythm

Each week follows Chicago West's discipleship pathway: **KNOW, FOLLOW, REFLECT.** As disciples, we seek to know Christ, follow Christ, and reflect Christ in our everyday lives and relationships.

Before Your Group Meets

- Read the primary Scripture passages slowly at least twice.
- Work through the teaching, supplemental passages, and written questions.
- Bring your Bible and study booklet to your gathering.
- Come prepared to share honestly with your group. As trust grows, challenge yourself to take one step beyond your comfort zone and allow others to know you more deeply.
- Complete the weekly practice, or make a concrete plan to do it.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to form Christ in you and your group.

A Suggested 90-Minute Group Gathering

- **10 minutes** — Welcome, check-in, and opening prayer.
- **25 minutes** — **KNOW:** Observe and understand the biblical text.
- **30 minutes** — **FOLLOW:** Discuss obedience, relationships, and practical next steps.
- **15 minutes** — **REFLECT:** Consider how to reflect Christ in your relationships and community.
- **10 minutes** — Commitments and prayer for one another.

Our Commitment to One Another

As we study and grow together, we want to cultivate a group environment marked by:

- **Confidentiality:** Protect personal stories shared within the group, except when safety requires appropriate help.
- **Grace and truth:** Speak honestly and lovingly without shaming others or excusing harm.
- **Listening and care:** Listen before responding and resist the urge to fix one another.
- **Shared Space:** We will make room for every voice and avoid dominating.
- **Wise care:** When serious concerns arise, seek appropriate pastoral, professional, or emergency support.

WEEK 1

WHAT IS AUTHENTIC AND GRACIOUS COMMUNITY?



PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

James 5:13–16; Luke 5:17–26

BIG TRUTH

Authentic community brings our real lives into the presence of Jesus, where we learn both to carry others and to be carried.

PREPARE: READ AND OBSERVE

Read James 5:13–16 and Luke 5:17–26. Circle repeated words, underline commands, and note what the passages reveal about God, people, and relationships.

My first observations or questions:

KNOW: UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH

As you study these passages, consider what they teach us about authentic and gracious community. Pay attention to the role of honesty, mutual care, and the centrality of Jesus in our relationships.

Vulnerability Opens the Door to Healing
James connects honest confession, prayer, and healing. Biblical vulnerability isn't telling everything to everyone; it is truthfully opening our lives to God and trustworthy believers. We move from disconnection to surface conversation to transparency, and finally to vulnerability, sharing not only what happened but what is happening in our hearts.

Community Is Mutual Ministry
In Luke 5, one man is carried, and several friends carry him. Healthy community makes room for both roles. We are not self-sufficient saviors, and we are not passive consumers. We receive help humbly and offer help faithfully.

Jesus Is the Center
The friends don't just bring the man into a room; they bring him to Jesus. Christian community is more than friendship or emotional support. Christ forgives, heals, transforms, and holds the community together.

Doctrine: What We Believe
The church is the body and family of Christ. Every believer is united to Christ and therefore belongs to one another (1 Corinthians 12:12–27). Grace makes honesty possible: we do not confess to earn acceptance. We confess because in Christ we are already known and loved.

Supplemental Passages: Genesis 2:18 • Romans 12:4–5 • 1 Corinthians 12:12–27 • Galatians 6:1–2 • Hebrews 10:24–25

KNOW QUESTIONS

1. According to James 5:13–16, how should believers respond to suffering, sin, and the need for healing?

2. What did the friends in Luke 5 risk or sacrifice to bring the man to Jesus?

3. How is Christian community different from a social club or support group?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

Move from what the text means to what faithful obedience looks like in your actual relationships. Choose at least two questions to answer fully before the group meets.

1. How would you describe your relationships: disconnected, surface, transparent, or vulnerable? Why?

2. When you are struggling, are you more comfortable helping others or allowing others to help you? Why?

3. What qualities make a person safe for vulnerability? How can you grow in those qualities?

4. What is one thing you need to honestly share with God or a trusted believer this week?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

This Week's Practice
Ask one trusted believer for a private conversation. Share one real burden, struggle, or need; ask for prayer; then receive their care without minimizing your need.

My specific person, action, and time:

REFLECT: ATTEND TO THE HEART

Take time to examine your heart in light of what you've learned. Consider what the Holy Spirit is revealing about your attitudes, fears, and relationships as He forms you to reflect Christ.

1. What fear most often keeps you hidden?

2. Where have you experienced Jesus through the care of His people?

3. What would change in our group if grace—not image management—set the tone?

RESPOND AND PRAY

Jesus, help me bring my real life into Your light and become a safe, gracious presence for others.

One truth I want to remember:

One step I will practice:

People and needs we will pray for:

WEEK 2

LOVE ONE ANOTHER



PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

John 13:34–35; 1 Samuel 18:1–4

BIG TRUTH

The distinguishing mark of Jesus' disciples is not sameness, but Christ-shaped love.

PREPARE: READ AND OBSERVE

Read John 13:34–35 and 1 Samuel 18:1–4. Circle repeated words, underline commands, and note what the passages reveal about God, people, and relationships.

My first observations or questions:

KNOW: UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH

As you study these passages, consider what they teach us about loving one another as Christ has loved us. Pay attention to how Jesus defines love and how His example shapes our relationships with others.

Jesus Gives Love a New Measure
The command to love was not new, but Jesus gave it a new pattern: "as I have loved you." His self-giving love—not comfort, chemistry, or personal preference—becomes our standard.

Love Creates Deep Bonds
Jonathan and David had reasons to compete, yet devotion to God bound them together. Gospel love can form durable friendships across differences of background, personality, culture, politics, age, and life experience.

Love Is a Choice Before It Is a Feeling
Jonathan made a covenant and gave costly gifts. Biblical love seeks another person's good even when affection is weak, or sacrifice is required. Feelings are important, but our commitment to love others should not depend on how we feel.

Doctrine: What We Believe
God is love, and we are able to love others because He first loved us (1 John 4:7–12, 19). Through His death on the cross, Jesus demonstrated the depth of God's love and made it possible for us to love one another. Biblical love does not compromise truth or holiness. Instead, it rejoices with the truth and seeks what is best for others.

Supplemental Passages: Leviticus 19:18 • 1 Corinthians 13:1–7 • Philippians 2:1–8 • 1 John 3:16–18 • 1 John 4:7–12

KNOW QUESTIONS

1. What is “new” about Jesus’ command in John 13?

2. What did Jonathan risk or surrender by loving David?

3. According to 1 Corinthians 13:4–7, what does love do—and refuse to do?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

Move from what the text means to what faithful obedience looks like in your actual relationships. Choose at least two questions to answer fully before the group meets.

1. Where do you find it easier to love people who are like you or who love you in return?

2. Who is difficult for you to love faithfully right now?

3. What difference or disagreement is testing your love for another believer?

4. What is one practical way you can sacrificially love someone this week?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

This Week's Practice
Choose one person outside your normal circle. Initiate contact, listen well, and take one concrete action for their good without expecting anything in return.

My specific person, action, and time:

REFLECT: ATTEND TO THE HEART

Take time to examine your heart in light of what you've learned. Consider what the Holy Spirit is revealing about your attitudes, fears, and relationships as He forms you to reflect Christ.

1. What does the way you love communicate about Jesus?

2. Where do you want others to meet your needs more than you want to serve theirs?

3. How has Christ loved you when you were difficult to love?

RESPOND AND PRAY

Jesus, love Your people through me with the patient, truthful, sacrificial love You have shown me.

One truth I want to remember:

One step I will practice:

People and needs we will pray for:

WEEK 3

BE DEVOTED TO ONE ANOTHER



PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

Romans 12:9–13; Ruth 1:8–17

BIG TRUTH

God's family is marked by enduring affection, honor, loyalty, and practical care.

PREPARE: READ AND OBSERVE

Read Romans 12:9–13 and Ruth 1:8–17. Circle repeated words, underline commands, and note what the passages reveal about God, people, and relationships.

My first observations or questions:

KNOW: UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH

As you study these passages, consider what it means to be devoted to one another as members of God's family. Pay attention to how sincere love, honor, and faithful commitment shape the way we care for one another.

Devotion Is Family-Shaped Love
Romans 12 combines sincere love with warm family affection. The church is not an audience gathered around a stage; it is a household joined in Christ.

Honor Notices and Lifts Others
To "outdo" one another in honor means taking the lead in showing respect and appreciation. Honor is not flattery, celebrity culture, or pretending sin does not exist. It recognizes God's grace and image in another person.

Devotion Stays When Staying Costs
Ruth clung to Naomi when Naomi appeared to have nothing to offer. Covenant-like devotion does not ask only, "What am I getting?" It asks, "How can I faithfully seek your good?"

Doctrine: What We Believe
Through adoption, God brings believers into His household (Ephesians 2:19; Galatians 4:4–7). Our devotion is grounded in our shared identity in Christ, not in usefulness, status, ethnicity, or social similarity.

Supplemental Passages: Acts 2:42–47 • Romans 12:9–16 • Philippians 2:3–4 • Ephesians 2:19–22 • 1 Peter 2:17

KNOW QUESTIONS

1. What instructions does Paul give believers in Romans 12:9–13? What picture of community emerges?

2. How did Naomi honor Ruth and Orpah? How did Ruth honor Naomi?

3. What is the difference between honor and flattery?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

Move from what the text means to what faithful obedience looks like in your actual relationships. Choose at least two questions to answer fully before the group meets.

1. Would people experience you as devoted to God's family? What evidence supports your answer?

2. Who do you tend to overlook or give less attention to? What influences the way you prioritize your relationships?

3. Where does convenience currently limit your commitment to community?

4. Name one person you can intentionally lift up this week. How can you do this?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

This Week's Practice
Honor two people specifically: tell each one what evidence of God's grace you see in them, and take one practical step to strengthen your connection.

My specific person, action, and time:

REFLECT: ATTEND TO THE HEART

Take time to examine your heart in light of what you've learned. Consider what the Holy Spirit is revealing about your attitudes, fears, and relationships as He forms you to reflect Christ.

1. Do you approach the church mainly as family, an event, a resource, or an obligation?

2. How do you respond when someone else receives the attention you wanted?

3. What would costly devotion look like in your present season?

RESPOND AND PRAY

Father, teach me to love Your household with sincere affection, loyal presence, and Christlike honor.

One truth I want to remember:

One step I will practice:

People and needs we will pray for:

WEEK 4
BE KIND AND COMPASSIONATE TO ONE ANOTHER



PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

Ephesians 4:31–32; Luke 10:25–37

BIG TRUTH

Grace forms people whose hearts are moved by suffering and whose hands act for another's good.

PREPARE: READ AND OBSERVE

Read Ephesians 4:31–32 and Luke 10:25–37. Circle repeated words, underline commands, and note what the passages reveal about God, people, and relationships.

My first observations or questions:

KNOW: UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH

As you study these passages, consider how God's kindness and compassion toward us shape the way we treat others. Pay attention to how genuine compassion moves beyond what we feel to how we respond to people in need.

Kindness Replaces the Old Way
Paul contrasts bitterness, rage, shouting, and malice with kindness and compassion. Gospel change is not only stopping destructive behavior; it is putting on a new way of relating.

Compassion Moves Toward Pain
The Samaritan sees the wounded man, is moved with compassion, and draws near. Compassion notices suffering without first asking whether the person deserves care.

Kindness Becomes Concrete
The Samaritan gives time, touch, transportation, money, and follow-through. Biblical kindness is not mere niceness. It acts wisely and sacrificially to bring good and relief.

Doctrine: What We Believe
God's kindness leads us to repentance, and Christ saves us according to His mercy (Romans 2:4; Titus 3:4–7). Christian compassion flows from received mercy. Every neighbor bears God's image, and every believer is called to imitate the Father's kindness.

Supplemental Passages: Micah 6:8 • Matthew 9:35–38 • Romans 2:4 • Colossians 3:12–14 • Titus 3:3–7

KNOW QUESTIONS

1. What attitudes must be put away in Ephesians 4:31? What replaces them?

2. Trace each action the Samaritan takes in Luke 10. What do his actions reveal about compassion?

3. How does Jesus redefine the question, "*Who is my neighbor?*"

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

Move from what the text means to what faithful obedience looks like in your actual relationships. Choose at least two questions to answer fully before the group meets.

1. What usually interrupts your compassion—hurry, fear, judgment, inconvenience, or fatigue?

2. Think about a conversation where you spoke the truth but struggled to communicate with kindness or compassion. How could you have approached that conversation differently?

3. Who is suffering near you that you may have learned not to see?

4. How can you show practical compassion to someone while exercising wisdom and maintaining healthy boundaries?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

This Week's Practice
Perform one quiet act of kindness that costs you time, attention, or resources. Do not publicize it. Let it become worship.

My specific person, action, and time:

REFLECT: ATTEND TO THE HEART

Take time to examine your heart in light of what you've learned. Consider what the Holy Spirit is revealing about your attitudes, fears, and relationships as He forms you to reflect Christ.

1. When has another person's kindness made God's care tangible to you?

2. Do people experience your presence as safe and tenderhearted? Why or why not?

3. Where might God be inviting you to move toward pain rather than around it?

RESPOND AND PRAY

Merciful God, give me eyes to see pain, a heart that is moved, and hands ready to serve.

One truth I want to remember:

One step I will practice:

People and needs we will pray for:

WEEK 5

FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER



PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

Ephesians 4:32; Genesis 50:15–21

BIG TRUTH

Forgiven people learn to release relational debts while practicing truth, wisdom, and safety.

PREPARE: READ AND OBSERVE

Read Ephesians 4:32 and Genesis 50:15–21. Circle repeated words, underline commands, and note what the passages reveal about God, people, and relationships.

My first observations or questions:

KNOW: UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH

As you study these passages, consider how the forgiveness we have received through Christ shapes the way we forgive others. Pay attention to how biblical forgiveness makes room for truth, acknowledges pain, and reflects the grace God has shown us.

Remember the Gospel
Forgiveness means graciously releasing a debt. God does not overlook our sin; through Christ, He bears its cost. In the same way, we are called to extend to others the grace we have received.

Face the Wound
Joseph's tears remind us that forgiveness does not mean denying or minimizing our pain. Forgiveness involves honestly acknowledging the wrong, grieving what was lost, accepting that the offender may never be able to make things right, and entrusting our desire for vengeance to God.

Distinguish Forgiveness from Restoration
We can extend forgiveness to another person, but reconciliation requires repentance and a willingness from both people to work toward restoring the relationship. Even when reconciliation is possible, rebuilding trust takes time. Forgiveness does not remove the need for accountability, healthy boundaries, or safety. In some situations, professional help may also be necessary.

Doctrine: What We Believe
At the cross, God remains just while justifying sinners who trust in Christ (Romans 3:23–26). Forgiveness is costly grace. As believers, we release personal vengeance because judgment belongs to God, and our own debt has been canceled in Christ.

Supplemental Passages: Matthew 6:12–15 • Matthew 18:21–35 • Romans 12:17–21 • Colossians 3:12–13 • 1 Peter 2:21–24

KNOW QUESTIONS

1. According to Ephesians 4:32, why should we forgive one another, and what example are we called to follow?

2. What evidence of grief, mercy, and wisdom do you see in Genesis 50?

3. How do forgiveness, trust, reconciliation, and restoration differ?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

Move from what the text means to what faithful obedience looks like in your actual relationships. Choose at least two questions to answer fully before the group meets.

1. What past hurt do you still hold against someone? What makes it difficult to release the hurt to God?

2. Which part of forgiveness is hardest for you: naming the wrong, grieving the loss, absorbing the cost, or releasing the desire for vengeance?

3. Do you need to establish a boundary, have a conversation, seek counsel, or allow more time before pursuing reconciliation?

4. Do you struggle to accept God's forgiveness for something in your past? How has that affected the way you see yourself?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

This Week's Practice
Write an unsent prayer-letter naming the wrong and its cost. Ask God for grace to release vengeance.

If abuse, danger, or serious trauma is involved, seek help from a trusted elder, counselor, or appropriate authority before taking relational action.

My specific person, action, and time:

REFLECT: ATTEND TO THE HEART

Take time to examine your heart in light of what you've learned. Consider what the Holy Spirit is revealing about your attitudes, fears, and relationships as He forms you to reflect Christ.

1. What false idea about forgiveness has harmed or stalled you?

2. How might releasing vengeance free you to heal?

3. What would it mean to entrust justice to God without calling evil good?

RESPOND AND PRAY

Father, help me face what happened truthfully and extend the costly grace I have received in Christ.

One truth I want to remember:

One step I will practice:

People and needs we will pray for:

WEEK 6

BEAR WITH ONE ANOTHER



PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

Ephesians 4:1–3; Mark 9:33–41

BIG TRUTH

Bearing with one another means choosing humility, patience, and love as we work through differences and pursue unity in Christ.

PREPARE: READ AND OBSERVE

Read Ephesians 4:1–3 and Mark 9:33–41. Circle repeated words, underline commands, and note what the passages reveal about God, people, and relationships.

My first observations or questions:

KNOW: UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH

As you study these passages, consider how humility, gentleness, and patience help us bear with one another in love. Pay attention to how Jesus responds to His disciples' immaturity and how His example shapes the way we pursue unity in our relationships.

Bearing Assumes Friction
The command means to sustain or put up with one another in love. Scripture expects personality differences, immaturity, misunderstandings, and annoyances. Not every irritation is a crisis or a reason to divide.

Humility, Gentleness, and Patience Make Endurance Possible
Humility remembers our own weakness. Gentleness is strength under control. Patience is long-tempered endurance. Together they protect the unity the Spirit has already created.

Grace Loves People Forward
Jesus did not abandon immature disciples; He corrected and formed them. Bearing with people is not enabling destructive sin. It is staying loving and teachable while God matures us together.

Doctrine: What We Believe
The Spirit creates one body, one hope, one Lord, one faith, and one family (Ephesians 4:3–6). We do not manufacture Christian unity; we preserve and display it through Christlike character.

Supplemental Passages: Romans 14:1–19 • Colossians 3:12–15 • 1 Thessalonians 5:14 • 2 Timothy 2:23–25 • 1 Peter 5:5

KNOW QUESTIONS

1. What attitudes surround the command to bear with one another in Ephesians 4:1–3?

2. What kinds of immaturity do you see in the disciples in Mark 9:33–41?

3. How does Jesus correct His disciples without rejecting them?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

Move from what the text means to what faithful obedience looks like in your actual relationships. Choose at least two questions to answer fully before the group meets.

1. What personality trait or habit in another person regularly irritates you?

2. Is the issue sin that requires loving correction, danger that requires boundaries, or a personal preference that requires patience?

3. Where do insecurity or pride lead you to compare yourself or compete with others?

4. How can you practice humility, gentleness, or patience in one specific relationship?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

This Week's Practice
Identify one recurring irritation. Refuse complaint and contempt for seven days. Pray for the person by name, assume the best reasonable motive, and choose one act of humble service.

My specific person, action, and time:

REFLECT: ATTEND TO THE HEART

Take time to examine your heart in light of what you've learned. Consider what the Holy Spirit is revealing about your attitudes, fears, and relationships as He forms you to reflect Christ.

1. How patient has Jesus been with your growth?

2. When do you confuse unity with uniformity, expecting others to think or act the same way you do?

3. Are you teachable when someone bears with you and corrects you?

RESPOND AND PRAY

Spirit of God, make me humble, gentle, patient, and eager to protect the unity You have given.

One truth I want to remember:

One step I will practice:

People and needs we will pray for:

WEEK 7

ADMONISH ONE ANOTHER



PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

Colossians 3:16; Galatians 2:11–14

BIG TRUTH

Loving correction helps us speak God's truth to one another with courage and compassion so that our lives reflect and align with the gospel.

PREPARE: READ AND OBSERVE

Read Colossians 3:16 and Galatians 2:11–14. Circle repeated words, underline commands, and note what the passages reveal about God, people, and relationships.

My first observations or questions:

KNOW: UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH

As you study these passages, consider how God's Word shapes the way we speak truth to one another. Pay attention to why loving correction is necessary, how it should be given, and how humility helps us receive it.

Admonition Begins with the Indwelling Word
Admonition is warning, counsel, or corrective instruction that renews thinking and living. It must flow from hearts richly inhabited by Christ's Word—not preference, irritation, rumor, or self-importance.

Truth Requires Courage and Compassion
Paul confronted Peter because Peter's conduct harmed Gentile believers and contradicted the gospel. Courage names what is wrong; compassion seeks the person's restoration rather than humiliation.

The Goal Is Realignment and Worship
Correction is not about winning. It helps a believer walk straight with the gospel and return to faithful worship. Healthy community both gives and receives correction with wisdom.

Doctrine: What We Believe
Scripture is sufficient to teach, rebuke, correct, and train God's people (2 Timothy 3:16–17). Because believers are being sanctified, we need one another's truthful ministry. Correction never adds to Christ's finished work; it helps our conduct match it.

Supplemental Passages: Proverbs 9:8–9 · Matthew 7:1–5 · Matthew 18:15–17 · Ephesians 4:15 · 2 Timothy 3:16–17

KNOW QUESTIONS

1. According to Colossians 3:16, what role does God's Word play in the way we teach and admonish one another?

2. Why was Peter's behavior a gospel issue rather than a matter of personal preference?

3. What do Paul's purpose and approach teach us about loving correction?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

Move from what the text means to what faithful obedience looks like in your actual relationships. Choose at least two questions to answer fully before the group meets.

1. Do you tend to avoid correcting others, speak too harshly, or become defensive when someone corrects you?

2. When you have a concern about someone, do you spend more time praying for them or talking about them to others?

3. Is your concern clearly grounded in Scripture, and is it serious enough to address?

4. How can you consider the setting, tone, timing, and relationship when approaching someone with loving correction?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

This Week's Practice
Ask a mature believer, *"Is there any way my conduct is out of step with the gospel?"* Listen without defending yourself. If you must correct someone, pray first and speak privately, specifically, and gently.

My specific person, action, and time:

REFLECT: ATTEND TO THE HEART

Take time to examine your heart in light of what you've learned. Consider what the Holy Spirit is revealing about your attitudes, fears, and relationships as He forms you to reflect Christ.

1. Whose correction has helped you grow? What made it easier for you to receive?

2. What fear keeps you from speaking necessary truth?

3. What pride keeps you from inviting truthful feedback?

RESPOND AND PRAY

Lord, fill me with Your Word and make me courageous, compassionate, humble, and teachable.

One truth I want to remember:

One step I will practice:

People and needs we will pray for:

WEEK 8

SERVE ONE ANOTHER



PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

Galatians 5:13–14; John 13:1–17

BIG TRUTH

Christian freedom bends low in love, following the Lord who washed His disciples' feet. Because Christ has freely loved and served us, we are called to humbly serve one another in love.

PREPARE: READ AND OBSERVE

Read Galatians 5:13–14 and John 13:1–17. Circle repeated words, underline commands, and note what the passages reveal about God, people, and relationships.

My first observations or questions:

KNOW: UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH

As you study these passages, consider how the freedom we have received in Christ calls us to serve one another in love. Pay attention to Jesus' example of humble service and how receiving His grace shapes the way we care for others.

Freedom Is for Love
Grace frees us from earning salvation and from slavery to sin. Paul warns us not to turn freedom into self-indulgence. Freedom reaches its proper purpose when we use it to serve one another through love.

Jesus Redefines Greatness
Knowing His identity and authority, Jesus took the place of a household servant. He did not serve from insecurity but from secure love. In His kingdom, greatness is measured by humble faithfulness.

Service Receives Before It Gives
Peter first had to let Jesus wash him. We serve rightly when we have received Christ's cleansing and care. Without this foundation, service can easily become performance, control, resentment, or a search for praise.

Doctrine: What We Believe
The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom (Mark 10:45). We are saved by grace apart from works, yet saved for good works (Ephesians 2:8–10). Our service is a response to the grace we have received, not a way to earn God's acceptance.

Supplemental Passages: Mark 10:42–45 · Romans 12:3–8 · Philippians 2:5–11 · 1 Peter 4:10–11 · Ephesians 2:8–10

KNOW QUESTIONS

1. How does Galatians 5:13–14 connect freedom, love, and service?

2. What did Jesus know about Himself before He washed His disciples' feet?

3. What reasons does Jesus give His disciples to follow His example?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

Move from what the text means to what faithful obedience looks like in your actual relationships. Choose at least two questions to answer fully before the group meets.

1. What ways of serving others feel beneath you, or do you avoid serving when no one notices?

2. Do you serve from love, guilt, control, habit, or a desire for recognition?

3. Where do you need to receive care instead of always being the strong one?

4. What need can you meet using your time, abilities, access, or resources?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

This Week's Practice
Choose a hidden act of service—clean, prepare, give, drive, repair, visit, or assist—suited to a real need. Serve without announcing it or controlling the response.

My specific person, action, and time:

REFLECT: ATTEND TO THE HEART

Take time to examine your heart in light of what you've learned. Consider what the Holy Spirit is revealing about your attitudes, fears, and relationships as He forms you to reflect Christ.

1. How does your secure identity in Christ free you to take a lower place?

2. When have you resented serving? What was happening in your heart?

3. Whose quiet service has shown you Jesus?

RESPOND AND PRAY

Servant King, free me from self-importance and teach me to take the towel joyfully.

One truth I want to remember:

One step I will practice:

People and needs we will pray for:

WEEK 9

CARRY ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS



PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

Galatians 6:1–5; Luke 23:26–27

BIG TRUTH

As members of the body of Christ, we are called to help carry one another's burdens with love, wisdom, and compassion as we walk faithfully before God.

PREPARE: READ AND OBSERVE

Read Galatians 6:1–5 and Luke 23:26–27. Circle repeated words, underline commands, and note what the passages reveal about God, people, and relationships.

My first observations or questions:

KNOW: UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH

As you study these passages, consider what it means to carry one another's burdens in love. Pay attention to how Scripture calls us to respond to those who are struggling while recognizing our own responsibilities and limitations.

Carry the Heavy Weight
A burden is an oppressive weight, too heavy to carry alone. In Galatians 6, Paul addresses helping someone caught in sin, but bearing one another's burdens also includes grief, illness, and practical needs. We are called to restore with gentleness and attention.

Carry the Cross
Simon carried what Jesus could no longer physically carry, while Jesus carried the sin Simon could never spiritually carry. Burden-bearing follows the crucified Lord and will usually cost time, comfort, money, or emotional energy.

Carry Without Becoming the Savior
Verse 5 says each person carries their own load. Community shares crushing burdens without removing responsibility, enabling harm, or replacing professional help. No one should be expected to carry another person's burdens alone. Some situations require support from the whole church community or care from qualified professionals.

Doctrine: What We Believe
Christ alone bears sin and saves. His people share suffering as members of one body (1 Corinthians 12:26). Burden-bearing fulfills the law of Christ—His command to love as He loved us—without confusing our role with His.

Supplemental Passages: Psalm 55:22 • Matthew 11:28–30 • Romans 12:15 • 1 Corinthians 12:24–27 • 2 Corinthians 1:3–7

KNOW QUESTIONS

1. What instructions and warnings accompany the command to carry one another's burdens in Galatians 6:1–5?

2. What different kinds of weight are carried in Luke 23:26–27?

3. How do Galatians 6:2 and 6:5 belong together?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

Move from what the text means to what faithful obedience looks like in your actual relationships. Choose at least two questions to answer fully before the group meets.

1. What burden are you carrying that has become too heavy to carry alone?

2. Who in your life is carrying a heavy burden, whether emotional, physical, financial, spiritual, or circumstantial?

3. What can you realistically do to help someone with the capacity and resources you currently have?

4. When might helping someone require the support of others, such as an elder, counselor, doctor, or community resource?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

This Week's Practice
Identify one burden you are carrying and consider sharing it with someone in your group whom you trust. Allow them to pray for you or offer practical support. Then choose one concrete way to lighten another person's load—a meal, ride, childcare, prayer, presence, practical task, or connection to appropriate care.

My specific person, action, and time:

REFLECT: ATTEND TO THE HEART

Take time to examine your heart in light of what you've learned. Consider what the Holy Spirit is revealing about your attitudes, fears, and relationships as He forms you to reflect Christ.

1. Why is asking for help difficult for you?

2. How willing are you to help someone when their struggles require more of your time and care?

3. How can you enter someone's grief without rushing to fix it?

RESPOND AND PRAY

Jesus, teach us to share weight with wisdom, humility, endurance, and hope.

One truth I want to remember:

One step I will practice:

People and needs we will pray for:

WEEK 10

SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER



PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

Ephesians 5:15–21; Matthew 8:5–13

BIG TRUTH

As followers of Christ, we are called to humbly submit to one another, willingly setting aside our own preferences and self-interest out of reverence for Him.

PREPARE: READ AND OBSERVE

Read Ephesians 5:15–21 and Matthew 8:5–13. Circle repeated words, underline commands, and note what the passages reveal about God, people, and relationships.

My first observations or questions:

KNOW: UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH

As you study these passages, consider how submission to Christ shapes the way we relate to one another. Pay attention to the connection between being filled with the Holy Spirit, honoring Christ's authority, and willingly putting the needs of others before our own.

Submission Flows from the Spirit
Paul describes a Spirit-filled life as one marked by worship, gratitude, and mutual submission. Unlike our natural tendency to put ourselves first, mutual submission grows as we yield to the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Submission Honors the Lord
The centurion understood both what it meant to have authority and to live under authority. Kingdom submission is more than recognizing someone's position; it is a posture of humility and trust under Christ's lordship. All human authority remains accountable to Jesus.

Submission Springs from Faith
We can yield because we trust Christ's goodness and rule. However, trusting Christ does not mean submitting to everything others ask of us. Submission is never permission for abuse, coercion, sin, or silencing. As Scripture reminds us, "*We must obey God rather than people*" (Acts 5:29). This remains a biblical boundary.

Doctrine: What We Believe
Jesus is Lord and Head of the church. Because we belong to Him, our mutual submission should be rooted in reverence for Christ, governed by Scripture, and expressed through humility. This also shapes how we understand and exercise authority. Biblical authority is a stewardship expressed through service, never an opportunity for domination (Mark 10:42–45; 1 Peter 5:1–4).

Supplemental Passages: Philippians 2:3–8 • Mark 10:42–45 • Acts 5:27–29 • 1 Peter 5:1–5 • Hebrews 13:17

KNOW QUESTIONS

1. What evidence of a Spirit-filled life do you see in Ephesians 5:18–21?

2. What did the centurion understand about authority and trust?

3. What boundaries do Acts 5:29 and Mark 10 place around human authority?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

Move from what the text means to what faithful obedience looks like in your actual relationships. Choose at least two questions to answer fully before the group meets.

1. Where do pride or fear make it difficult for you to yield to others?

2. Whose wisdom, needs, or preferences should you consider more carefully?

3. Are you using authority to serve others or to control outcomes and people?

4. Is someone asking you to participate in something sinful, unsafe, manipulative, or abusive? What support or guidance do you need?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

This Week's Practice
In one everyday decision this week that doesn't involve sin or compromise your safety, invite another believer's perspective and willingly set aside your preference for their good. If you hold authority, ask those under your care how your leadership impacts them.

My specific person, action, and time:

REFLECT: ATTEND TO THE HEART

Take time to examine your heart in light of what you've learned. Consider what the Holy Spirit is revealing about your attitudes, fears, and relationships as He forms you to reflect Christ.

1. What does your response to inconvenience reveal about your trust in Jesus?

2. How might mutual submission change conflict in your group or home?

3. Where do you need to listen before insisting?

RESPOND AND PRAY

Holy Spirit, bring me under Christ's good rule and form in me a humble, listening, yielded heart.

One truth I want to remember:

One step I will practice:

People and needs we will pray for:

WEEK 11

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER AND BUILD ONE ANOTHER UP



PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

1 Thessalonians 5:9–11; 1 Samuel 23:15–18

BIG TRUTH

God strengthens His people through believers who come alongside one another, encourage their faith, and remind them of His promises in difficult seasons.

PREPARE: READ AND OBSERVE

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:9–11 and 1 Samuel 23:15–18. Circle repeated words, underline commands, and note what the passages reveal about God, people, and relationships.

My first observations or questions:

KNOW: UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH

As you study these passages, consider how God uses His people to strengthen one another in faith. Pay attention to the example of Jonathan and David and how biblical encouragement involves more than kind words. It calls us to come alongside others, remind them of God's truth, and help them find strength in Him.

Choose to Become a Life-Giver
To encourage is to come alongside someone to comfort, urge, or strengthen them. To build up carries the idea of construction, reinforcing and strengthening another person's faith. Biblical encouragement is neither flattery nor vague positivity; it helps others remain rooted in Christ.

Enter the Wilderness
Jonathan went to David in the wilderness and helped him find strength in God. He could not remove David's difficult circumstances, but he could offer his presence and encouragement. Sometimes the most meaningful way to encourage someone is to come alongside them through faithful presence before offering advice.

Speak Biblical Hope
Jonathan reminded David of God's promised future. Christian encouragement tells the truth about pain while applying God's character, promises, and gospel. It strengthens faith without denying the reality of someone's circumstances.

Doctrine: What We Believe
The triune God is the God of encouragement (Romans 15:5), the Son advocates for His people, and the Spirit is our Helper. Because believers' future is secure in Christ, we can strengthen one another with steadfast hope.

Supplemental Passages: Romans 8:31–39 • Romans 15:1–7 • 2 Corinthians 1:3–7 • Hebrews 3:12–13 • Hebrews 10:23–25

KNOW QUESTIONS

1. What gospel truths support the command to encourage and build one another up in 1 Thessalonians 5:9–11?

2. How did Jonathan strengthen David's faith in the wilderness?

3. How is biblical encouragement different from flattery or simply trying to make someone feel better?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

Move from what the text means to what faithful obedience looks like in your actual relationships. Choose at least two questions to answer fully before the group meets.

1. When someone is discouraged, do you tend to offer quick solutions, avoid the situation, lecture, minimize their pain, or come alongside them?

2. Who in your life is walking through a difficult or discouraging season right now?

3. What specific evidence of God's grace or work can you recognize and affirm in another believer?

4. How can you use Scripture to encourage someone without dismissing or minimizing what they are experiencing?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

This Week's Practice
Encourage two people specifically. Name what you see God forming in them, share one fitting Scripture, and pray with at least one of them.

My specific person, action, and time:

REFLECT: ATTEND TO THE HEART

Take time to examine your heart in light of what you've learned. Consider what the Holy Spirit is revealing about your attitudes, fears, and relationships as He forms you to reflect Christ.

1. Are your words more likely to build others up, tear them down, or leave them unchanged?

2. When has someone's presence or encouragement helped strengthen your faith?

3. What promise of God do you need others to remind you of in this season?

RESPOND AND PRAY

God of encouragement, use my presence, words, Scripture, and prayers to strengthen Your people in Christ.

One truth I want to remember:

One step I will practice:

People and needs we will pray for:

CLOSING: KEEP LIVING “ONE ANOTHER”

Congratulations on completing this eleven-week journey! Over these weeks, we have studied more than a collection of relational commands. We have seen a picture of the life Jesus calls us to live together as His people. He does not merely save isolated individuals; He forms a family that makes His grace visible through the way we love and care for one another.

As we come to the end of this study, remember that spiritual growth does not mean we now practice every command perfectly. Rather, it means we are learning to recognize where the Holy Spirit is calling us to repent, receive God’s grace, and take faithful steps of obedience.

At Chicago West, we believe a disciple is someone who **knows, follows, and reflects Christ**. Throughout this study, we have grown in our understanding of God’s Word, considered what it means to follow Jesus in our relationships, and examined how our lives can reflect Him to others.

But our journey doesn’t end here.

The goal was never simply to finish this booklet. Our prayer is that these commands—to love, forgive, bear with, serve, carry burdens, submit, and encourage one another—would become part of the ordinary rhythm of our lives.

This is how we continue growing together in Authentic and Gracious Community.

CLOSING: KEEP LIVING "ONE ANOTHER"

YOUR NEXT THREE STEPS

1. Recognize where God has been growing you.
Think back over the eleven weeks. Which One Another command has challenged or transformed the way you relate to others? Share with your group what God has been teaching you and thank Him for the growth you've experienced.

2. Identify an area where you still need to grow.
Which command continues to expose resistance, pain, or immaturity in your life? Be honest about where you are struggling and invite a trusted believer to walk alongside you over the next 30 days through prayer, encouragement, and accountability.

3. Choose an ongoing rhythm of obedience.
Consider one practical way you can continue living out the One Another commands beyond this study. It could be a weekly encouragement, a monthly meal, a regular prayer partner, an act of service, a step toward reconciliation, or helping someone carry a burden.

Choose something specific and sustainable that will help you continue growing in Christlike love.

Our Ongoing Commitment to One Another
By the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, we will continue pursuing Authentic and Gracious Community. We will seek to live honestly before God and one another, receive care with humility, and pursue the good of Christ's people through truth, grace, service, and sacrificial love.

May these *One Another* commands become more than words we have studied. May they become a way of life that reflects Jesus to our church, our neighbors, and the world around us.

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
John 13:35

DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS AND GROWTH RESOURCES

The following tools are designed to help you reflect on your spiritual growth, examine your relationships, and identify practical ways to continue living out the One Another commands. Use them prayerfully, not as a measure of perfection, but as an opportunity to recognize where God is at work and where He is inviting you to grow.

One Another Health Check

Rate each statement from 1 (rarely true) to 5 (consistently true). Do not use your responses to shame yourself or compare your growth with others. Instead, use them to identify areas for prayer, repentance, and support.

Statement	1-5
I am known beyond surface-level conversation by trustworthy believers.	
My love remains active when relationships become inconvenient.	
I take the initiative to honor and include others.	
I notice suffering and respond with practical kindness.	
I can name hurt honestly while moving toward forgiveness.	
I respond to ordinary weakness with humility, gentleness, and patience.	
I both give and receive biblical correction with love	
I use my freedom, gifts, and time to serve.	

Statement	1-5
I ask for help and help carry others' heavy burdens.	
I yield preferences and use authority to serve rather than control	
My words and presence regularly strengthen faith in Christ.	

Relationship Circles

Write down actual names, not ideals. As you reflect, consider whether your relationships are balanced, mutual, and growing.

PEOPLE WHO KNOW ME

Who knows my struggles, fears, temptations, and hopes?

PEOPLE I CARRY

Whose faith or burden am I actively helping strengthen?

PEOPLE WHO CARRY ME

Whom do I allow to help, correct, encourage, and pray for me?

PEOPLE DIFFERENT FROM ME

Who differs from me in age, background, culture, personality, or life experience?

PEOPLE NEEDING REPAIR

What relationships do I need to extend or seek forgiveness, confess wrongdoing, establish boundaries, or pursue reconciliation?

A Simple Conversation Guide

Use these prompts to help guide honest, gracious conversations when care, understanding, or reconciliation is needed.

- **NOTICE** — *"I have noticed..."* State what you observed without exaggeration or assuming someone's motives.
- **ASK** — *"How are you experiencing this?"* Listen before interpreting.
- **OWN** — "*My part in this is...*" Confess without excuses.
- **OFFER** — *"Would it help if I...?"* Give care without controlling.
- **NEXT** — *"What is one wise next step?"* Clarify responsibility, support, and timing.
- **PRAY** — Bring the real situation into the presence of Jesus.

When to Seek Additional Help

Community Groups provide meaningful spiritual friendship and care, but they cannot meet every need or replace professional support when it is necessary. Contact a Chicago West elder or appropriate ministry leader when you need pastoral wisdom, guidance, or coordinated care. Seek qualified professional or emergency help when situations involve abuse, threats, self-harm, violence, addiction withdrawal, serious mental health concerns, medical emergencies, or illegal activity. Do not promise secrecy when someone may be in danger.

30-Day Growth Plan

The *One Another* command I will focus on:

The relationship in which I will practice it:

My weekly action:

The person who will ask me about it:

What I will pray for God to change in me: