GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

April 26, 2020

Friends with Benefits
1 Peter 4:8-11
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NOTES

Looking back at your notes from this week's message, was there anything you heard for the first time, stuck with you, challenged or confused you?

What is the one important thing you will take away from this weekend's message or our life group discussion? Is there any challenge, difficulty or praise that you would like to share with the group for prayer?

Watch sermon On Demand
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GROUP DISCUSSION

1. **Open with prayer. (2-5 min)**
2. **Share your story ... *What annoys you? What do you do that others might find irritating?* (7-10 min)**
3. **Read 1 Peter 4:8-11.**
4. **Discuss these questions with your group. (20-45 min)**

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. (1 Peter 4:8)

Is it possible to love in a way that is not "earnest"? If so, what does that look like? In what sense does love "cover" the sins of others? How can we do this without enabling unhealthy words and behaviors?

Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. (vs. 9)

What might cause us to resist being hospitable? Why does complaining defeat the whole purpose of hospitality?

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies. (vs. 10-11)

What are your natural and spiritual gifts? How can you use them for the benefit of others? Why is it important to acknowledge that God, alone, is the source of our skills and abilities?

—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (vs. 11)

What is the purpose of using our gifts? What does it mean to glorify God *through Jesus*? How long is Christ's dominion going to last? How does the predicted duration of God's Kingdom shape its value for you?

PLAN OF ACTION

Draw five concentric circles. In the center circle, write down the names of the people who are closest to you. Then in the outer circles, write down the names of the people you influence and who inspire you. Pick one of those names and think of a way to use your gifts to build up and encourage that person this week.