



# START WITH WHY

STUDY GUIDE | JANUARY 23, 2022

## EMBRACING JESUS

### THE POINTS FROM THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE WERE:

- You can only embrace others with God's love if you have first accepted his loving embrace of you.

### LET'S TALK

1. What impacted you the most from this week's message?
2. When we're in a liminal season (an in-between time) where we don't know where we're going, it's especially important to know our purpose. How does Jesus express our purpose in Matthew 22:37-40? What's your reaction to this statement?
3. We love others by embracing those that Jesus embraces (John 3:16). This includes people from all walks of life, no matter their age, race, nationality, social status, abilities, religious background and past life. What about this do you find exciting? What about this do you find challenging?
4. Pray this prayer (from the Book of Common Prayer) together as a group:  
*Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching out our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you, for the honour of your name. Amen.*
5. Pastor Steve says, "a big part of becoming a community of embrace involves opening our lives to each other, and learning to live in loving, mutually supportive unity as a church family, and that often happens best in small groups."

What's do you appreciate most about your small group?

What is one way you think your group can continue to show love to group members as well as those in the community?

6. Loving other people can be difficult. What do you do when there's someone in your life that's difficult to love?

*Continued on next page*

---

This resource and additional study guides are available at [cornerstonechurch.ca/sermons](https://cornerstonechurch.ca/sermons)

For more group resources including icebreakers, group activities, serving and other meeting ideas, visit [cornerstonechurch.ca/onlinegroupideas](https://cornerstonechurch.ca/onlinegroupideas)



7. The Bible says in 1 John, We love because God first loved us. Because of our sin, we can't love others the way we're supposed to. That's why your first priority isn't to love like Jesus loves, it's to live in the loving embrace of Jesus moment-by-moment so that love spills over to those around you. What about this idea stands out most for you? How would living this out change your relationship with God? With others?
  
8. What is one thing you can do this week to live more intentionally in God's love for you?

**LET'S PRAY:** Spend some time in prayer (for each other, for our community and for the world).