

**Small Group Discussion Ideas**  
For Pursuing Impact Together Series  
April 2024

*Pursuing Impact Together*

**ASPIRE**



## Week 2: **Impact: Making a Difference** *Pursuing Impact Together Series*

### **1. Who was your most influential teacher/mentor when you were in school?**

#### **Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-7**

*Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup> You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. <sup>3</sup> Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.*

*<sup>4</sup> There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. <sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. <sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.*

### **2. The Bible teaches God distributes Spiritual "gifts" to all believers. What are the most repeated phrases in the passage (v. 4-6)?**

### **3. What are the key points in the passage? Are the Spiritual gifts passages primarily about "us as individuals, God as the provider or us as a group of believers?" v.7**

#### **Read 1 Corinthians 12:8-11**

*<sup>8</sup> To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.*

### **4. Have you ever been involved in a Spiritual gifts study or discussion? Have you determined what your spiritual gift might be?**

### **5. Have you ever had any experiences with the super-natural *charismatic* gifts?**

### **6. Paul was a talented leader in Judaism with an impressive pedigree and resume. How did he regard those compared to knowing Christ. See *Philippians 3:3-11***

7. **Did hearing about the *Pursuing Impact Together* opportunities with Meadow Lane Elementary, Langsford Boys Home, If Not For Grace Ministries, Refuge KC stir your heart to become involved? What might your small group consider doing together?**

## Local Mission Opportunities (April 2024)

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### MEADOW LANE ELEMENTARY

- 1) **Individual:** Volunteer as reading or lunchroom buddy to support students and teachers.
- 2) **Church:** Join with others as we renew our *Partner in Education* status & involvement with MLE.
- 3) **Dream big:** Join our exploration plan of connection “*Caring for Kids KC Network*” with LS R-7 schools.

### LANGSFORD BOYS HOME

- 4) **Individual:** Connect with Terri Wear concerning the boy’s on-going needs. Help Deerbrook host our annual Christmas dinner for the boys.
- 5) **Church:** Help Deerbrook form a team to develop a relationship with Langsford Boys home leadership and the expressed interest in hands-on projects, mentoring, cooking & sports.
- 6) **Dream big:** Apply to become an official volunteer to gain visitation privileges.

### IF NOT FOR GRACE MINISTRIES

- 7) **Individual:** Donate food & assistance for INFG Reconciliation Weekends.
- 8) **Church:** Help Deerbrook form an INFG partnership, that develops a relationship with the ministry and helps expand their national impact.
- 9) **Dream big:** Engage the work of this ministry for post-abortion families by becoming a volunteer, prayer partner & financial supporter of this ministry.

### REFUGE KC

- 10) **Individual:** Begin with prayer and understanding the RefugeKC.org local ministry. Help Deerbrook host a new refugee dinner on Saturday May 18 in KC .
- 11) **Church:** Help Deerbrook continue to engage in refugee assistance by creating/attending a *Welcoming The Stranger (2018)* book club and discussion.
- 12) **Dream big:** Form a group (5+ people) to help relocate a refugee family to KC area.

## Week 3: **Together: Belonging to One Another** *Pursuing Impact Together Series*

- 1. When you were young, was there someone bringing, dragging or inviting you to church?**

### **Read Romans 12:1-2 (NLT)**

*And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.<sup>2</sup> Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

- 2. How does the world shape people's values? What could limit the world's effect on your own values or way of thinking?**
- 3. How do you experience 'God transforming the way you think'? What practices help your spiritual walk with God'?**

### **Read Romans 12:3-8 (NLT)**

*<sup>3</sup>Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. <sup>4</sup>Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, <sup>5</sup>so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.*

*<sup>6</sup>In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. <sup>7</sup>If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. <sup>8</sup>If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.*

- 4. Do you feel a sense of belonging to Deerbrook? Does being an official member matter?**
- 5. How do you connect or serve the church congregation? What could help you better connect or find a place to serve?**

**Read Romans 12:9-11 (NLT)**

<sup>9</sup> *Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.* <sup>10</sup> *Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.*

<sup>11</sup> *Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.*

- 6. How do you demonstrate and experience genuine love?**
  
- 7. Are there particular individuals who deeply encourage you? How do they encourage you or make you feel?**
  
- 8. What single action could you take to encourage another person at Deerbrook?**

Close with prayer time with one another.

## Week 4: **Together II: Why is Love the Measure?**

Opening questions:

**What is your favorite summer holiday?**

**Is that holiday connected to family traditions and togetherness? Do you look forward to being together with your extended family?**

### **Read I John 3:1 (NIV)**

*See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him...*

- 1. Does being declared “a child of God” have an affect you? Is it part of your identity?**

### **Read I John 3:10-15 (NIV)**

*<sup>10</sup>This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God’s child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister. <sup>11</sup>For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.*

*<sup>12</sup>Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother’s were righteous. <sup>13</sup>Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. <sup>14</sup>We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. <sup>15</sup>Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.*

- 2. It is fair to say that “loving one another” is the measure of our Christian faith? Why or why not?**

- 3. Who in your life is hard for you to love? Who is harder to love, strangers, co-workers or family?**

- 4. What measures can you take to grow in your ability to love?**

## Read I John 3:16-18 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

5. It is fair to say that “loving one another” is the measure of our Christian faith?

## Read this collection of several “one another” verses below.

6. Do any of these “one another” passages help you grow most in demonstrating love?

*Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.* Rom. 10:10

*Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.* Rom. 12:16

*Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.* Rom. 14:13

*Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.* Rom. 15:7

*Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.* Eph. 4:2

*Be kind & compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.* Eph. 4:32

*Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.* Eph. 5:21

*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.* 1 Thess. 5:11

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.* Heb. 10:24-25