

Growing to Love and Follow
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, October 15th, 2023



We Are Disciples

FALL 2023 SERMON SERIES
granthamchurch.org/sermons

Grantham Church
BRETHREN IN CHRIST

Sermon Title: Growing to Love and Follow

Scripture Reading: Matthew 22:34-40; John 15:9-17; 1 John 4:10-12, 19

Sermon Focus: We're not brains on a stick. We don't become disciples by simply believing certain things, or by obeying some rules. Instead, we're called to *love* God with our whole being, and then discipleship flows out of this divine love exchange. But for that to happen, we must be intentional in *aiming* our loves at Christ and seeking what he desires for us and creation. What does that look like? In the fourth message of our series, Pastor David calls us to love and follow the God who looks like Jesus.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read Matthew 22:34-40 and John 15:9-17 together. The words of Jesus go to the “heart” of the matter. To follow Jesus means to love him and be loved by him. While it does involve the mind (thinking, learning, information, etc.), a love relationship involves much more than the intellect. It involves passion, emotions, and feelings which are accessed in one-to-one intimacy. Have you experienced this in your walk with Jesus? If so, share about that. If not, why not?
2. The Brethren in Christ first began as Mennonites who embraced Pietism. They recognized that to truly know God is to *experience* God, not just give mental ascent to beliefs, doctrines, ideas, etc. Do you think it’s possible to tell when a person is only relating to God with their mind and not their heart? What do you think happens to a person and a church that can’t tell the difference?
3. Read James 2:14-17 together. James is addressing the incongruity between our beliefs and our actions. And we can’t harmonize these with thinking and learning more stuff. Pastor David said, *“Until we examine our deepest loves and longings of the heart, and make sure that it is in fact Jesus who sits on that throne (the object of all our affections), then we can’t grow in his love and follow him.”* What do you think it looks like to examine your loves? How can we know when we have other passions and loves on the throne of our heart and not Jesus?
4. As James K.A. Smith says in his book, *You Are What You Love*, we are religious animals, and we need help *aiming* our love at Christ. Pastor David suggested the things below to help us do that. Take some time to talk about each of these. How are you doing with these? Is the Spirit inviting you to do something you’ve not been doing to help you focus your life and love on Christ?
 1. Spend time with Jesus. (e.g., listening, talking, enjoying his presence, etc.)
 2. Develop holy habits and routines. (e.g., quiet time, worship, prayer, sabbath, etc.)
 3. Walk with other disciples. (e.g., confession, accountability, discernment, etc.)
5. Reflect on what Jess Jasitt shared about her recent chaplaincy program. She is growing and following Jesus in some tough places. How did her sharing speak to you, encourage you, and challenge you as a disciple of Jesus?
6. Have you been trying to *think* your way into deeper faith? What would it look like to *love* your way into greater trust, surrender, and obedience to Christ?