



Sermon Discussion Guide

The Word Of Humanity The Seven Greatest Words Of Love – Part 5

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“After (being on the cross for six hours), Jesus knew that everything had been done. So that the Scripture would come true, he said, “I am thirsty.” John 19:28 (NCV)

We all need water to live, and we can all relate to Jesus’ feeling of being thirsty after being on the cross such a long time. His words “I am thirsty” are words of humanity – words any of us could say. What do those words mean about Jesus, about those around us who are thirsty, and about our own spiritual thirst? Here we’ll discuss how Jesus’ last words about thirst showed the depth of his love and remind us that we’re all spiritually thirsty for Jesus, and how serving others helps satisfy that thirst.

OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.

“God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8 (ESV)

1. It is very hard to sacrifice ourselves for others less fortunate than us. How can you orient your mind toward loving others like Jesus and Mother Teresa did?
2. Even though Jesus died for us, we sometimes blame God when we are in unfavorable or difficult situations, comparing ourselves with others who are more fortunate. How we can we focus on God’s love in these circumstances?

“I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!” Matthew 25:40 (NLT)

3. If you willingly serve people of lower status who desperately need your help, you are doing what God would like to do for them. What do you think Matthew 25:40 means? How do these words help you serve others who are less fortunate?
4. Why do you think we sometimes enthusiastically try to serve God but don’t look after unhappy and lowly people such as the sick and the poor?

“O God, you are my God, and I long for you. My whole being desires you like a dry worn out and waterless land; my soul is thirsty for you.” Psalm 63:1 (TEV)

5. Psalm 63:1 shows that only God can truly satisfy our soul’s deepest thirst. Where do people typically look instead to fulfill their desires or satisfy their emptiness?
6. Share about acts of love, kindness, or service in your life that could make others thirsty for Jesus and draw them to want to know more about him.

Diving Deeper (optional)

“Jesus gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born as a man and became like a servant.” Philippians 2:7 (NCV)

1. Why is it important that Jesus was both 100% human and 100% God?
2. Jesus said “If you are thirsty, come to me” (John 7:37). What is the difference between coming to Jesus and coming to church or to a Bible study?

“They have turned away from me, the spring of living water, and they have dug their own wells, which are broken wells that cannot hold water.” Jeremiah 2:13 (NCV)

3. What things do you turn to repeatedly, only to find you are dissatisfied? What can you do to turn your focus back to God?
“The water I give them ... becomes a perpetual spring within them, giving them eternal life.” John 4:14 (NLT)
4. What does “perpetual spring” or “eternal life” mean to you?

REVIEW ANY ASSIGNMENTS OR COMMITMENTS MADE DURING YOUR PREVIOUS MEETING.

Sermon Discussion Guide Leader Notes

Suggestions for This Week’s Study

- Icebreaker: Name things in this world that easily satisfy people’s desires or makes them feel happy, at least temporarily.
- Goal: Help group members understand that Jesus’ last words show us the depth of God’s love for us, reminding us that we’re all spiritually thirsty for Jesus and that serving others helps satisfy that thirst.
- Pray: Lord, you know me personally and the idols in my life that bring me temporary fulfillment. Father, tear down these idols in my life. Jesus, help me to know you personally and more intimately each day, and satisfy my soul with your love and presence. Holy Spirit, empower me to serve others, whether in big or small acts of love and kindness, even toward my enemies. Lord, let nothing in my life keep others from knowing you. Use my life to draw others to thirst more deeply for you.

Preparing to Lead Your Group

- ✓ **PRAY** for insight as you begin to prepare for leading your group. Ask for God’s wisdom, that the Holy Spirit will be the teacher and that you will be God’s instrument to lead the group to greater understanding and a willingness to commit to becoming more like God. Prayer should be your primary source of personal preparation for leading your group.
- ✓ **PLAN** where you want to take your group in the next 60-90 days. Is your group strong in some areas and weak in others? How can you challenge the members to live more balanced Christian lives? Consider God’s five purposes for the church: Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry, Mission and Worship, and make a plan to encourage your group members to growth and commitment in their weak areas.
- ✓ **PONDER YOUR PROGRESS** after each session and at the end of a series. Reflect on what went well and what didn’t. Re-evaluation is key to your growth as a leader. Consider whether your plan is being effective in moving the group to greater understanding and commitment. How are you doing with leading the discussion: is it stimulating, challenging, and meaningful? Are you able to keep the group on track? Do you need to make some changes?

Using This Sermon Discussion Guide

- Talk It Over is a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. We’ve designed it so it can be completed easily within 30-45 minutes. As the discussion leader, you should preview and evaluate the questions based on the needs of your group. Decide in advance what is most important to focus on, should time not allow for the entire lesson.
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, consider using the Diving Deeper section or add additional Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- The questions relating to Bible study methods are helpful to develop Bible literacy and spiritual maturity in our lives. You can help your group be aware of their needs in these areas by using these questions as a regular part of each discussion.
- Personal applications are essential for growth and should be included in every discussion. When discussing how they will apply principles, group members may state very general goals such as “I need to spend more time in prayer.” It is important for you to help people make goals that are very specific and commit to specific plans of action by asking, for example, “How are you going to begin?” An example is to get up 25 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- Your goal as the leader is to bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their needs for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.