LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PRAY TOGETHER

Father, thank You for reminding us that worship is our response to who You are, and that our whole lives can be lived in worship to You. As we discuss this message, help us honestly examine whether we are truly close to Jesus or simply near the things of Jesus. Give us courage to reorder our priorities around You and to respond to the mission field You have placed us in. Holy Spirit, guide our conversation with humility, honesty, and grace. Amen.

ICE BREAKER

Pastor Aaron said cranberry sauce is the food that makes Thanksgiving feel official for him. What's one Thanksgiving food—or holiday food—that must be on the table for it to feel like the holiday to you?

SERMON OVERVIEW

This week, we focus on one of the Bible's most tragic figures, Judas Iscariot. Our aim is not to judge him from a distance, but to hold up a mirror and ask ourselves a challenging question: Are we truly close to Jesus, or simply in proximity to Him? Drawing from John chapters 12 and 13, which highlight key moments from the Last Supper and the events surrounding it, the sermon shows how someone can walk alongside Jesus, witness His miracles, and still fundamentally misunderstand who He is. We explore a side of Judas that is often overlooked. He held a position of trust among the disciples, managed their finances, and walked alongside Jesus for several years. Yet, something was deeply misaligned in his heart. We see how he disguised his greed as generosity and followed Jesus on his own terms, expecting Jesus to take on a role that He never intended to fulfill. The lesson resonates closely with us. It is entirely possible to attend church, use the right language, and keep Jesus among our priorities while never truly surrendering to Him as Lord. This message encourages us to let the Holy Spirit search our hearts and honestly evaluate whether Jesus is the foundation upon which we build our lives, or just a decoration in a house built on something else entirely. It calls the church to reorient its priorities around Christ as the foundation of life, engage with the mission field surrounding it, and boldly carry the gospel into everyday moments.

SCAN FOR SERMON CLIP

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READ SCRIPTURE

JOHN 12:1-6, 13:2-5, 21-30 MATTHEW 26:25
MATTHEW 7:24-27, COLOSSIANS 1:15-20, ROMANS 8:1

CONNECT RELATIONALLY

1) The sermon invited us to examine whether something else has taken first place in our lives. What priority, desire, or responsibility most often competes with Jesus for first place in your heart? How can you recognize when something good has begun taking an unhealthy place in your priorities?

2) Jesus washed Judas's feet, seated him in the place of honor, and extended him a special morsel of bread, all while knowing Judas was about to betray Him. How does that picture of Jesus's humility and grace affect the way you view Him? What does this reveal about the nature of Jesus's love, and how does it challenge the way you treat people who have wronged you?

3) Where have you seen God patiently offering you grace, even when your heart or priorities have been divided?

GROW
SPIRITUALLY

4) In John 12:1–6, Judas objected to Mary's use of expensive perfume, but John tells us his concern was not really for the poor. What does this passage reveal about Judas's motives, heart, and priorities?

5) In Matthew 7:24–27, Jesus compares two people who build houses on different foundations. What does this passage teach about the difference between hearing Jesus's words and obeying them? What are some other ways someone might be around the things of God without necessarily growing closer to God? What are some of the things that most commonly compete for the foundation spot in people's lives today?

6) Colossians 1:15-20 reminds us that Jesus is before all things, that everything was created through him and for him, and that he holds all things together. Pastor Aaron made the point that we put Jesus first not simply because it's what's best for us, but because he is first. How does understanding who Jesus is change the way you think about giving him first place in your life?

LIVE
GENEROUSLY

7) Pastor Aaron reminded us that every Northview campus is planted in the middle of a mission field. Who are some of the people around you who may have "everything they want" but still need Jesus?

8) The message closed with a challenge to identify someone by name and pray for an opportunity to share Jesus with that person during Thanksgiving week. Who is that person in your life, and what has held you back from sharing your faith with them? Pray and ask for a door to open to share Christ's love with them.

TAKE
ACTION

Based on our conversation today, how do you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you to take a next step in practical application? Please complete this statement,
I am feeling convicted to take the following action (keep it simple):

Please invite each group member to share their action step, if they have one.

PRAY
TOGETHER

Take a few minutes for each person to share a recent joy or praise, as well as something that's weighing on their heart and in need of intercession. Invite someone to pray over these requests. Be sure to share them with everyone in the group so you can continue praying for one another throughout the week.

ENGAGE
TOGETHER

Life Group Town Hall - If you couldn't join one of our November Life Group Town Hall virtual events, you can watch the recording and view the slides. The session begins with introductions and an icebreaker. At 12:23, we cover our group ministry overview, including our mission, vision, purpose, and approach to building spiritual community. We then introduce Revival Now, Northview's upcoming Life Group Campaign and Spiritual Growth Initiative, and explain how you can participate personally, engage with your life group, and help the initiative grow across our church and greater community. The session concludes with an open Q&A.