**PREPARATION**

* Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
* You can watch the sermon online [HERE](http://3crosses.org/about-us/sermons/).
* Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
* You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.

**Welcome:** *Icebreaker – How did you celebrate the New Year?*

**Study Context:** Throughout this series, be sure to check out our 3Crosses Podcast for additional content. Additionally, follow along our sermon series by downloading our 3Crosses App [HERE](https://www.3crosses.church/app)

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What’s Going on This Week

At the start of 2024, Pastor Danny Strange led us into the second week of our new series titled *Let’s Go*! Danny directed our attention to *John 13:34-35* to challenge the church to live out our faith in the context of Christian community. Even though everything wars against sharing our faith in community, Pastor Danny challenged us to “re-up” our efforts in 2024, intentionally move towards our faith community, and model the type of community we hope to be a part of. As you walk through the study guide this week, spend some time unpacking your own experience trying to make Christian friends, identify the obstacles standing in your way of engaging in the Christian Community, and challenge yourself toward your next step!

***“To the ‘insiders’ can we commit to never becoming and ‘insider’ club where people feel left out? Will you always keep your eyes open to welcoming those who are new? To the ‘outsider’ will you trust the Lord while you serve others and pray God weaves you into community here.”* – Pastor Danny Strange**

**GROUP MEETING** (60 – 90 minutes)

**Worship** (10 – 15 minutes)*Take time with your group and prepare your hearts as you enter the presence of God for this meeting.*

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| **Worship Music**  Have someone share their favorite worship song. You can find it online, play it, and even sing along with your group! Have them explain why the lyrics have impacted them! | **Thanksgiving**  It can be easy to speak negatively about prior experiences with the church. Intentionally spend some time expressing the ways in which you are grateful for the church body. | **The Church as the Temple** |

**Word #1: Intentionally Move Toward Christian Community** (15 – 25 minutes)

*Primary Text(s): John 13:1-35*

In these passages, Jesus is setting the example of a loving community by modeling what it means to follow his commands to love one another. He then passes on this command to his disciples emphasizing that the world will know Jesus’ disciples by the way they love one another. What is your experience when it comes to connecting and growing withing the church community? What are some of the challenges you face when trying to connect with others inside the church? What are some ways that you can begin to overcome some of these challenges and take a first step to build meaningful relationships?

**Host Tip:** Allow space for people to be vulnerable about the challenges of connecting in community with the church. This may be a difficult conversation for some, so protect the space and reiterate that the group is a safe place to share any hurt and pain.

**Word #2: Model the Community You Desire** (15 – 25 minutes)

*Primary Text(s): John 15:12-17, 17:21-23; 1 John 4:20*

In these passages, Jesus re-emphasizes the command to love one another. Later, John ties the love of one another with the love of God! What are some of the practical ways you can show love to your church community this week? What are some specific actions you can take to make newcomers feel more welcomed and included? How can your group work together to become a place that is welcoming toward all?

**Host Tip:** Spend some time thinking very practically about the ways in which we can love our neighbors. In addition, spend some time talking about our core Life Group value of a Welcoming Community! Brainstorm some ways your group can improve that type of environment!

**Witness**(20 – 25 minutes)

* Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to draw us closer to our church community!
* Pray that the Holy Spirit would make room in our hearts for new members of our community!
* Pray for any individual prayer request that comes up in your group.
* **Pray for the entire group and how they may be able to participate in future group meetings.**
* **Pray for an interaction with someone who you can invite into your next group meeting!**
* **Pray for God’s hand in the multiplication and revival of your group!**
* **Pray for the** [**local ministry**](https://3crosses.org/neighborhood/) **at 3Crosses and** [**the global mission**](https://operationworld.org/) **of God!**

Stay up to date with our Prayer Ministry by signing up to be an intercessor online at [3Crosses.org/pray](mailto:https://3crosses.org/pray/)!

**Throughout the Week**

* **Follow up between group members:** Have each member of the grouppick one other group member to follow up with about how they are growing in their faith as they learn to keep in step with wherever the Holy Spirit is leading them.
* **Join relief efforts locally and around the world:** Looking to contribute to what is going on both locally and around the world? Visit our website and volunteer in our[neighborhood resource center](https://3crosses.org/neighborhood/) or help sponsor an [indigenous missionary](https://3crosses.org/missions/)!
* **Life Groups 2024:** For more information about joining a group, hosting a group, or general inquiries, contact AJ at [avanegas@3crosses.org](mailto:avanegas@3crosses.org) or Carmela at [carmela@3crosses.org](mailto:carmela@3Crossses.org)