



OVER THE FENCE

Discussion Guide



SESSION 1

First Pray

TO BEGIN

- What has been your favorite road trip or vacation?

DIGGING DEEPER

Together, open your Bibles and read from Luke 6:12-16, then watch Session 1.

- What stood out to you the most from this past weekend service?

As followers of Jesus, we should always begin with prayer. In this series we are talking about going Over the Fence and learning to connect with our neighbours. The first thing we need to do is pray. Before we even have conversations with our neighbours, we need to start by praying for them. We can pray for the people who God has placed in our lives.

- What does your prayer life look like (time, place, and plan)? What would you like it to look like?
- Where have you been blessed in your life by the prayers of other people for you?
- How do you want to approach prayer for the people in your life?

When we first pray, we can begin with those in our sphere of influence. We can pray for our family, friends, co-workers, literal neighbours, and even casual acquaintances (cashier, bank teller, sales associate etc.). Who is God asking you to pray for?

- What name(s) is God placing on your heart to pray for? Share with the group and spend time praying for them.

Every day this week, pray and intentionally look for ways to connect with people on the other side of the fence in your life.

- What are the fences (barriers) in your life you need to face this week?
- Who do you keep at a safe distance by putting up fences?
- How can you get over the fences in your life this week?
- How does this week’s topic apply to your life? What will be your next step?

PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS

Spend some time praying and share what God is doing in your life. Each week you will be given a different prayer. Together, pray this prayer then go into praying for each other.

“God, may Your kingdom come and Your will be done. Please provide me with an opportunity today to cross the barriers between myself and others. Help me to be aware of Your presence and Your leading today.”

SESSION 2

Ears Open

TO BEGIN

- Would you consider yourself a good listener? Why or why not?

DIGGING DEEPER

Together, open your Bibles and read from Luke 18:35-40, then watch Session 2.

- What stood out to you the most from this past weekend service?

Before we can help others find Jesus, we need to listen to them first. Who in my life today needs a listening ear? In your interactions with others today, take the posture of a listener and learner. Let go of your expectations and practice listening and being present in your conversations. Learn to listen.

Here are some wonderful questions to get someone to talk -

- What is your favorite memory from childhood?
- What was your high school experience like?
- What do you like to do for fun?
- What do you want to be doing in five years?
- If you could have the perfect job, what would it be?
- What do you believe about God?

In pairs or as a group, take some time and answer these questions and practice your listening skills.

- In what ways do you need to grow in listening to others and in showing that you care?

This week, learn to listen. Every day this week, pray and intentionally look for ways to listen to people on the other side of the fence in your life.

- What are the fences (barriers) in your life you need to face this week?
- Who do you keep at a safe distance by putting up fences?
- How can you get over the fences in your life this week?
- How does this week's topic apply to your life? What will be your next step?

PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS

Spend some time praying and share what God is doing in your life. Each week you will be given a different prayer. Together, pray this prayer then go into praying for each other.

"God, how do You want me to impact my world today? Help me to listen to and discover the needs of others and where You're at work."

SESSION 3

Nourish

TO BEGIN

- What would be your favorite meal — appetizer, drink, entree and/or dessert?

DIGGING DEEPER

Together, open your Bibles and read from Mathew 9:9-13, then watch Session 3.

- What stood out to you the most from this past weekend service?

“Sharing meals together on a regular basis is one of the most sacred practices we can engage in as believers. Missional hospitality is a tremendous opportunity to extend the kingdom of God. We can literally eat our way into the kingdom of God! If every Christian household regularly invited a stranger or a poor person into their home for a meal once a week, we would literally change the world by eating!”

– Alan Hirsch and Lance Ford—Right Here, Right Now

- When have you experienced incredible hospitality through a meal that meant so much?

Simply put, eating together is one of the fastest ways to move a relationship from acquaintance to friend.

- Who can you share a meal or coffee with who is far from God? A co-worker over lunch? A neighbour during the day? A friend or family member over the weekend? Share the name of this person with the group.

Ask God to give you opportunities to eat with this person. Ask God to inspire you with creative ideas for recipes, restaurants, and other ways to be hospitable.

Every day this week, pray and intentionally look for ways to connect with people on the other side of the fence in your life.

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- Who do you keep at a safe distance by putting up fences?
- How can you get over the fences in your life this week?
- How does this week's topic apply to your life? What will be your next step?

Praise & Prayer Points

Spend some time praying and share what God is doing in your life. Each week you will be given a different prayer. Together, pray this prayer then go into praying for each other.

"God, show me how I can extend hospitality today. Show me relationships I can deepen today by sharing a meal or a coffee."

SESSION 4

Caring Acts

TO BEGIN

- Share a time when someone did something caring for you OR you for someone else.

DIGGING DEEPER

Together, open your Bibles and read from Mark 7:31-37, then watch Session 4.

- What stood out to you the most from this past weekend service?

Before jumping into serving people with caring acts, have we taken the time to pray for, listen to, and share a meal or coffee with them? Doing these things first helps us discover ways we really need to care for them.

Jesus was a servant. His entire ministry is an example of serving wherever He went. Jesus served with caring acts, that's how He lived life, and so to should we.

- What are some practical ways to care and serve the people around us?
- Who can you serve this week? Who do you know that has a practical need? Ask them how you and the group can help.

Let's pray that God would empower us to serve others with the humility of Jesus.

Pronounce it! Read Philippians 2:5-8 several times, stopping after each word or phrase. Which words or phrases stand out most prominently to you?

“Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of Himself. He had equal status with God but didn’t think so much of Himself that He had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, He set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human!” – Philippians 2:5-8 (The Message)

Every day this week, pray and intentionally look for ways to serve people on the other side of the fence in your life.

- What are the fences (barriers) in your life you need to face this week?
- Who do you keep at a safe distance by putting up fences?
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- How does this week’s topic apply to your life? What will be your next step?

PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS

Spend some time praying and share what God is doing in your life. Each week you will be given a different prayer. Together, pray this prayer then go into praying for each other.

“God, You know the needs of the people I’ll interact with today. How can I serve them in ways that show Your love for them?”

SESSION 5

Exchange Stories

TO BEGIN

- Who has been a spiritual hero in your life?

DIGGING DEEPER

Together, open your Bibles and read from John 3:1-17, then watch Session 5.

- What stood out to you the most from this past weekend service?

Sharing the story of God is essential to participating in God's mission. It helps people to hear how Christ has made a difference in our own life. Sharing stories builds bridges and strengthens our relationships.

Hopefully by now you have built a close relationship or you have one already and have earned the right to tell your story. Perhaps you have already been asked what makes you different.

Whatever the case, this is your time to be more than a good neighbor and tell them the great difference God has made in your life.

- What difference has God made in your own life? How have you encountered God or experienced the reality of God in your life?
- If you haven't already, take some time in your group and share your stories.

It might take some reflection on your part to remember how

Jesus has changed things for you, but you might be surprised by what comes to mind as you reflect on your story. Unexpected themes might emerge even as you share your story with others. This step can make a big difference in the lives of others, but in your own as well! Think about Jesus, the impact He has had on your life and be ready to share your story.

- Ask God whom you could share your story with this week. Who might that be?

Every day this week, pray and intentionally look for ways to share your story with people on the other side of the fence in your life.

- What are the fences (barriers) in your life you need to face this week?
- Who do you keep at a safe distance by putting up fences?
- How can you get over the fences in your life this week?
- How does this week's topic apply to your life? What will be your next step?

If you're still unsure about your story, this week, write out a one-page version of your story of what God has done for you. When you have done this, share your story with someone in the group.

PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS

Spend some time praying and share what God is doing in your life. Each week you will be given a different prayer. Together, pray this prayer then go into praying for each other.

"God, You've made such a difference in my life ... Will You give me opportunities and words to tell people all about it?"



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