

# Island Group Discussion Guide

Abide → Connect → Invest → Go

WEEK OF JANUARY 25, 2026

WHAT A DISCIPLE DOES - WEEK 4



**COMMITTED TO CONNECTING WITH GOD'S FAMILY • ACTS 2:46**

## OPENING PRAYER TIME

Begin your meeting with 10-15 minutes of prayer using these prompts:

- Thank God for His presence with us today and His desire to knit our hearts together
- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide our discussion and help us understand what it means to truly belong
- Pray for open hearts willing to move beyond attendance to authentic community
- Invite Jesus to reveal areas where we need to grow in connection with His family
- Ask for courage to be vulnerable and let others into our lives
- Pray for our church to reflect Christ's love to one another and to the watching world

## DISCUSSION

- **Ice breaker:** Have you ever been part of a group or team where you really felt like you belonged? What made that experience different from other groups you've been part of?
- **Read Acts 2:46.** What stands out to you about how the early church gathered? Why do you think they met both in the temple (large gatherings) and in homes (small gatherings)?
- Last week we learned that abiding is the root system of our discipleship. The message this week built on that foundation: *"You can't truly connect with God's family if you're not first connected to God."* How have you experienced the connection between your relationship with God and your relationships with other believers?
- Pastor Charlie talked about the dangerous myth in American Christianity: "Just me and Jesus." What cultural forces push us toward isolation (remote work, streaming church, social media, etc.)? How have you personally felt these pressures?
- **Read Genesis 2:18.** God said this before sin entered the world. What does it tell us about God's design that even in a perfect environment, He declared it "not good" for man to be alone?
- **Read Hebrews 10:24-25.** The sermon emphasized that this isn't a suggestion but a command. What does it mean to "stir up one another to love and good works"? Why does connection become *more* important, not less, "as the Day draws near"?



- In the message we heard: *"If you have a hard time loving people... take a serious look at your relationship with God."* **Read 1 John 4:20-21.** How does this challenge our tendency to separate our love for God from our love for others?
- The early church pattern included both large gatherings (corporate worship) and small gatherings (breaking bread in homes). What happens in corporate worship that can't happen anywhere else? What happens in small groups that can't happen on Sunday morning?
- The message identified several benefits of small group life: vulnerability, personal care, mutual burden-bearing, iron sharpening iron, and consistent encouragement. Which of these do you most need right now? Which can you most offer to others?
- **Read Galatians 6:2.** We heard that when we don't share our burdens, we *"rob the blessing of care and compassion from others."* How does reframing burden-sharing as a gift to others (not just receiving help) change your perspective on vulnerability?
- The sermon contrasted counterfeit community (showing up, saying "fine," leaving without anyone knowing you) with authentic community marked by genuine love, sacrificial availability, honest vulnerability, consistent presence, and unity amid diversity. Which of these is most challenging for you personally?
- **Read Romans 12:9-10.** The challenge was given: *"Outdo one another in showing honor."* What would it look like if we actually competed in honoring each other rather than tearing each other down?
- Pastor Charlie shared five warning signs that connection might be going wrong: attendance without engagement, selective community, consumer mentality, surface-level relationships, and conflict avoidance. **Application question:** Which warning sign do you most need to examine in your own life?
- The message emphasized: *"You have a responsibility to reach out to others and let them into your world."* Building community requires effort from everyone. What's one way you can take initiative this week rather than waiting for others to reach out to you?
- **Read John 13:34-35.** We heard: *"The world isn't convinced by our arguments. They're convinced by our love for each other."* How does knowing that our love for one another is a testimony to the watching world change how you view your church relationships?
- **Application question:** This week's challenge is to have one conversation with someone in this church family that goes deeper than the surface – ask a real question and give a real answer. Who will you reach out to, and what will you ask?

## CLOSING PRAYER TIME

Share prayer requests and concerns with the group. Be sure to write these down and send them to all group members so everyone can pray throughout the week, including those who were absent today.