

## Small Group Curriculum • Love Local

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### Love Local • Week 1 • Local Church

What if real change doesn't start with big ideas but with simple, everyday actions right where you are? In a time when the world feels more divided than ever, *Love Local* is an invitation to rediscover the love that makes a difference. This series is about taking bold steps to love where it counts most: here and now. Are you ready to bring hope, connection, and purpose back to your corner of the world?

### REMINDERS

- Explore a serving role at: <https://awakeningchurch.com/serve/>
- Fill in the blanks with your group. At Awakening our ministry model (aka "Discipleship Pathway") is our blueprint for how we do ministry. Our four expressions of church life are: \_\_\_\_\_ to know Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_ as a disciple of Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_ the love of Jesus. (*come, grow, serve, share*)

### ICEBREAKER

- What do you love doing? What do you hate doing?
- Do you have any hidden talents? What can you do?
- What was one new experience you tried that was completely unknown or uncomfortable to you at the time you tried it?

### INTRODUCTION

**You Are Supernaturally Gifted:** Did you know that you've been equipped with supernatural gifts designed for a purpose bigger than yourself? This week, we're exploring how your unique talents and abilities aren't just meant to fill a seat but to help build the church of Jesus from the inside out. You have a role, you have a place, and your gifts matter more than you think. What if stepping into your purpose could change not just the church but your life as well?

**GROUP ACTIVITY:** Break your group into three groups and assign each group one of the scripture readings and discussion questions. Give them 20-25 minutes to discuss and then regroup for the conclusion/response.

#### GROUP #1

READ: Paul says the gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to Christ-followers "*just as He determines*" (1 Corinthians 12:11) and "*must be done for the strengthening of the church.*" (1 Corinthians 14:26)

#### DISCUSS:

- What does 1 Corinthians 12:11 tell you about how God has designed you?

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- Are you currently mobilizing your gifts as God has intended them to be used according to 1 Corinthians 14:26? Why or why not?
- If you are unaware of your spiritual gifts, what is one step you can take to help discover your “divine design?”

PRAY: Ask God to make it clearly known what your spiritual gift is and how to best use that gift to make the greatest impact for His purposes.

## **GROUP #2**

READ: In 1 Corinthians 12:4, Paul wrote to a group of churches saying, “*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.*” (Consider reading Ephesians 4:11-13 as well.)

### DISCUSS:

- According to Paul, who determines which spiritual gift a Christ-follower will receive?
- How does this truth alter how you view your spiritual gifts and the gifts of others?
- Take a moment to name & encourage the unique gifting represented in your group.

PRAY: Thank God for His unique design of each group member.

## **GROUP #3**

READ: The Apostle Paul, an early church planter and leader, said in 1 Corinthians 12:27 that, “*...you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*”

### DISCUSS:

- Personally assess your involvement within the mission of church. Do you see yourself more as a “sidelined spectator” or as a “participating player?” Why?
- If you were to take a more active role in joining the purposes of the church, what would be your first step towards this goal?
- In this passage Paul is highlighting the beauty of diversity in the gifts while remaining unified in purpose. How can this principle shape your group’s culture by encouraging the uniqueness of each individual, yet remaining united in mission? (Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-26 for further implications).

PRAY: Praise God for the beauty of His diversity seen in your group, while asking Him to give you great unity in accomplishing His mission within your home, neighborhood, & world.

## **RESPONSE**

1. What was the passage assigned to your group and what was a key highlight of your conversation? (allow each group to share)
2. Do you hear any themes from what was shared?



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3. Where are you most personally challenged?
4. Are there any next steps God is asking us to consider?

**Transition:** We desire our small groups at Awakening to regularly experience relational connection, biblical study, and also prayer, taking our praise, requests, and confessions to God.

## **PRAYER**

Take time to thank God for each group member and their unique gifting. Ask that God would clearly reveal their unique contribution to God's kingdom work.