



## Grab Gather Grow

Week of Sept 1st

**Grab** this study, **gather** a few people, and **grow** in faith.

BE LOVE: Begin with Love

Open by praying together...

In love you created us, Holy God, and in love you intended us to live. We confess the limits of our love before you, and humbly ask you to send your spirit during this time of reading, reflection, and relationship to increase our love for you and for our neighbor—a love made real in speech and action, not in mere sentiment. May our conversations and commitments today honor you and open us to the transforming work of your Son who first loved us, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Be Love

Begin with Love

Expand the Circle

Lavish Love

Openhearted Love

Value the Vulnerable

Emulate Christ

### Discussion

discuss one or more of the following...

Read over Mark 12:28-34 then discuss

“What does the great commandment actually call us to do?”

Read over the Be Love box. How can your gathering Be Love? With our theme this week of “Begin with Love,” how does one begin to love God?

How can loving our neighbor be reckless?

Discuss the following quote from Tom Berlin’s Reckless Love:

“It is only when we commit to love our neighbor and intentionally accomplish this goal that we learn what it means to fully love God?”

Share as many familiar phrases, quotes, and titles including the word “love” (or some variation) in one minute as you can. After a minute review and discuss your responses.

Read over the quote from C.S. Lewis and discuss.

“Do not waste time bothering whether you “love” your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the greatest secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him.” - C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Read over Galatians 5:16-26

What does it mean, in concrete and practical terms, to “live by the Spirit?” Talk about a time when you have experienced one or more of Paul’s “fruit of the Spirit” (verses 22-23). When did these experiences occur as a result of the virtuous cycle that results from loving our neighbor?

### SERVICE

As a gathering, read over some of the service options below or come up with another for this week.

Sunday our Change4Change offering was for Dignity sandwich making ministry. Every 2nd Sunday, after our encounter (10:45 service) we make over 200 sandwiches for the Dignity Center, a homeless ministry of Hennepin Ave. UMC. Plan on attending our encounter service as a gathering this coming Sunday, Sept. 8th and after worship help us make 200 sandwiches.

Next Sunday’s Change4Change offering will go toward Kidpacks. Raise some “change” for this ministry of our BUMY program and help them pack weekend snacks for their fellow students.

As a gathering, pledge to make a few Shoe Box Christmas gifts for the Spirit Lake Ministry Center in North Dakota. Pick an age, a gender, fill a shoe box with Christmas gifts (gloves and warm things especially), wrap the box with Christmas wrapping so it can be opened, wrap a rubber band around it, attach note with the age range and gender it is for, and bring it to BUMC by Sept. 30th.



**FAITH**  
share read talk pray bless



Sunday: Mark 12: 28  
Monday (Labor Day): Mark 12:29-30  
Tuesday: Mark 12:31  
Wednesday: Mark 12:32-43  
Thursday: Galatians 5:22-23  
Friday: Galatians 5:25-26  
Saturday: Luke 5:10

**Share** your high and low of the day; **read** a piece of scripture; **talk** about it, and **pray** including your highs and lows. At the end of the night, have someone **bless** everyone with the following blessing:  
*“May you always love neighbor so that you will always know how to love God.”*