

.....

Hey small group leaders! We hope you are being challenged, encouraged, and drawn more to the love of Jesus as we explore the “Red Letter Challenge”! It’s our deepest desire that our church family SEES Jesus as He truly is, chooses to be YOKED to Him, finds REST for their souls, and BUILDS their lives on His word. Would you pray with and for your small group over the remaining 3 weeks?

Thank you for shepherding a group of people to Love God, Love Others, and Live Sent!

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

.....

“Great occasions for serving God come seldom, but little ones surround us daily.”

[Francis de Sales]

LEADER RESOURCES || **Leader Note** We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well. Access a resource by clicking on the underlined title and share them with your group!

- **Passage Summary**
 - Jesus describes the Father/Son operation and makes an astounding promise: that His followers will do even greater works than He has done. However, His emphasis is on more than just the scope and extent of the works. It’s on the relationship that makes these “greater” works possible, which includes the privilege of prayer within the family of God (“Name of Jesus”) and the fellowship and power through the Holy Spirit.
- Here are two resources to help lead your group well:
 - [Handling Issues With Truth and Grace](#) (written)
 - [Practices of a Small Group Leader](#) (video)
- [John 14 Commentary](#) & [The Path to Short-Lived Greatness](#)
 - Use this commentary and short article for background and encouragement. These would be good resources to share before you gather.
- [How Personal Renewal Fuels Mission](#)
 - This would be an encouraging resource to share with your group after you gather.

ENGAGE & CONNECT || **Leader Note** The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another’s hearts and building joy together.

Share about a time when someone’s small act of love made an impact on your life.

OPTIONAL DEVOTIONAL RECAP || **Leader Note** This is an opportunity to allow people to share what they gleaned from the previous week’s devotional readings. This should be kept short (30 seconds per person) so there is time for the discussion and prayer time. Your group can also share through a group text.

What is one thing that God taught you, convicted you of, or invited you to begin doing as you read the devotional last week?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || Leader Note Begin your time together by thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, beginning in a posture of humility and dependence!

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

“Serve the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Acknowledge that the Lord is God. He made us, and we are his—his people, the sheep of his pasture.”

[Psalm 100:2-3]

BIG IDEA || Leader Note Read this aloud so your group knows the theme of today’s reading and discussion.

What Jesus did on earth, He now does through His people who have His Spirit. God draws us IN to send us OUT!

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || Leader Note Have people read aloud the passage as instructed. Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage multiple people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two reminders: 1) Every question does not have to be answered ... go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud ... they’re for guidance!

Have someone read aloud John 14:9-18. Consider having someone read it again, possibly in a different translation.

1. How does Jesus' statement, "The one who has seen me has seen the Father" challenge or affirm your understanding of God's nature? *This affirms the unity of the Father and Jesus, showing that to understand Jesus is to understand God's character, love, and purpose. It challenges views that separate Jesus from the Father, recognizing that Jesus is the full revelation of God's nature. This implies that the Father is as loving, merciful, and close as Jesus is, which deepens our trust and relationship with God.*
2. What does Jesus mean by saying believers will do "greater works" than He has done? *Jesus likely refers to the broader scope of the Church's impact after His resurrection and ascension. With the Holy Spirit, we can reach more people globally and in diverse ways that Jesus did not during His earthly ministry. "Greater works" also implies transforming lives, spreading the gospel, and demonstrating Christ's power through community, justice, and love in ways that build the ministry He began.*
3. In the sermon we heard, *“Jesus wants to demonstrate His Kingdom through us!”* How do you typically respond to hearing something like this? Do you tend to accept this invitation with joy, doubt that God can work through you, or have another response? *This is a good opportunity to go first!*
4. How can we align our prayers with God's will to ensure we are praying "in His name? How can we pray with the same confidence that Jesus promises"? (v. 13-14) *Praying "in Jesus' name" means aligning requests with Jesus' mission and character. It's not just a formula, but involves seeking what furthers God's kingdom, justice, love, and mercy. We should approach prayer with humility, seeking God's will above personal desires, asking for guidance on how our requests align with His larger plan.*
5. How does the promise of the Holy Spirit as a "Counselor" enhance our understanding of God's care and provision for us? *This highlights God's ongoing, personal involvement in our lives. The Holy Spirit is not only a helper but also an ever-present guide, teacher, and source of comfort. It demonstrates that God doesn't leave His people to struggle alone but provides the Spirit to continue Christ's work of nurturing, guiding, and empowering us for a life of faith and mission.*
6. In what ways do you struggle with trusting that the Holy Spirit is present with you? How can the promise of the Holy Spirit transform how we approach challenges in our spiritual walk? *The Spirit is a source of constant help, comfort, and guidance. Knowing we have the Spirit gives us confidence and*

strength to face trials. It also assures that we are not alone in our struggles, and that divine wisdom and empowerment are available, enabling us to live out our faith with boldness and resilience.

7. How does serving others help us understand and experience the love of God in deeper ways? How can you cultivate a “holy ambition” for service in your church or community? *Serving others puts us in a position of humility, where we reflect God’s love to those around us. Jesus served others out of love for the Father, and as we serve, we often experience that same divine love flowing through us. Holy ambition is a selfless desire to serve God’s purposes over personal gain, which can be directed toward local needs in the church and community, prompting action that glorifies God.*
8. How can you ensure that your service is rooted in prayer and dependence on God rather than in your own efforts? *Service should stem from a deep connection with God. Spend time discussing the importance of prayer, scripture meditation, and Holy Spirit guidance to ensure service remains spiritually fruitful and not just a human endeavor.*
9. How does the promise of the Holy Spirit challenge you to step out in faith in areas where you may feel inadequate or unsure? *Answers will vary: the Holy Spirit empowers us to do what we cannot accomplish in our own strength. Knowing the Spirit provides wisdom, courage, and guidance encourages us to trust God more fully in areas of weakness or uncertainty. This might include sharing our faith, leading others, or making decisions that require bold trust in God’s provision and direction.*
10. How does understanding that you are part of a “family of servants” shift your perspective on your role in our church? How can we as a group better reflect the reality of Christ’s presence and the Holy Spirit’s work in our collective mission?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE || **Leader Note** *This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.*

Rather than “God, help me do greater so I can be happier”, what if we reframed our hearts to this: “Because God has greatly loved me, I aim to offer His great love to others.” As Jesus commanded His disciples, *“I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another”* (John 13:34-35).

Based on the Holy Spirit’s wisdom, what is a step of obedience that you can take? Here are a few additional questions to consider so we can make ourselves *available to the Lord* ...

- How does God want to work through your **UNIQUE** life?
- How can you start **SMALL** right where you are?
- How can you **SERVE** others in Jesus’ name?
 - As a member of a **FAMILY** —> see a need, meet a need!
 - As part of a **TEAM** — serve using your spiritual gifts!

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 3-4 for this question.

PRAYER FOCUS || **Leader Note** *We want to commit to praying for OTHERS as a unified church who is dependent upon God for everything. Be intentional about saving at least 5 minutes for prayer at the end of your gathering each week to pray together. You can pray for one another as well as the prompt below!*

Jesus' Mission Through Us

- Let's reflect for a moment on how Jesus lived on earth – serving, healing, teaching, and showing love to all. Through His death and resurrection, He gave us the incredible gift of the Holy Spirit. As His followers, we are called to continue His work, empowered by His Spirit.
- Let's take a moment to thank God for drawing us into His presence. Let's also ask Him to fill us afresh with His Spirit, to guide us to share His love with those around us, and for courage to be His hands and feet, reaching those in need of His love and grace.

MEMORY VERSE || **Leader Note** *Through this series, we want to encourage your group to memorize the passage below, as it is one of the foundational truths upon which the "Red Letter Challenge" is based on. Psalm 119:11 tells us, "I have treasured your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you."*

*"Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn't collapse, because its foundation was on the rock."
(Matthew 7:24-25)*

RLC RESOURCES || **Leader Note** *Below are additional resources that you can share or use before, during, or after you gather. If you have questions, contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc*

- **Rock Bridge RLC Website** → rockbridge.cc/red
 - This contains an overview video and links to a 40 day Bible reading plan, which complement and enhance the Red Letter Challenge series.
- **Participant Assessment** → [HERE](#)
 - This free tool helps people discover how they're doing in the 5 targets: Being, Forgiving, Serving, Giving, and Going. It is recommended that people take this at the beginning of the series, so share the link via text or email with them.
- **Videos** → [HERE](#)
 - These short videos (6-8 minutes) can be sent to your group before you gather, watched at the beginning of your gathering, or sent to your group as a way to follow up the discussion. They are NOT the content of the discussion, just an enhancement!
- **Red Letter Disciple Podcast** → [HERE](#)
 - This is a podcast by the creators of the Red Letter Challenge. It does NOT go along with the series, but does have podcasts about discipleship that will equip and encourage you. This would be best for people to listen to on their own.