



The Distortion of Distance | Jeremy DeWeerd | 7.11.21  
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

**If you could only eat at one restaurant for the rest of your life which one would you choose?**

SHARE

Welcome back to Group! This week, we had a fantastic guest speaker named Jeremy DeWeerd, who preached a sermon called, The Distortion of Distance. But before we dive into the sermon, take some time to check in with your Group by answering these questions.

**What is one word you would use to describe how you are currently feeling? Why did you pick that word?**

**What was the most challenging part of your week? What was the highlight of your week?**

**What is one thing you want to accomplish this summer? Have you taken any steps toward achieving that goal yet?**

GROW

**Read Luke 16:19-31**

**Which character did you resonate with most in this parable? Why?**

**What do you think Jesus is trying to communicate with this story?**

The passage you just read is a parable; it's a story Jesus told to communicate a deeper truth. This one is a little complicated and difficult to grasp, so you may have a lot of questions. But don't miss the beautiful invitation to open your gate and walk with people you would usually ignore. As Jeremy reminded us this week, the man in the story decided to live his life closed off to people, and he ended up alone.

Have you ever closed yourself off to a person or a group of people? It's a normal human instinct. But in the Gospels, Jesus is always inviting us to bring more and more people into our lives. It's easy to feel like we won't fit in with people when they are far away because distance creates distortion. However, when we take the time to get to know people, we quickly realize that we have more in common than we thought.

**Distance may create distortion, but the good news is closeness creates clarity!**

**Who is one person you have distanced yourself from? Why do you think you created that distance?**

**What is one tangible step you can take this week to reach out to that person?**

M O V E

**Read Romans 12:9-16**

**Which verse stuck out to you the most in this passage? Why?**

**Romans 12 starts with the word "Therefore." What do you know about the rest of Romans? What is Paul trying to teach us in this letter?**

In this passage, the Apostle Paul reminds us that love is an action word. Love isn't just something we talk about; it is something that we do. If we are serious about following Jesus, we need to be serious about treating other people the way we want to be treated.

What keeps us from loving people well? Although there are a ton of answers to that question, this week, Jeremy gave us three of the big answers:

1. We are scared.
2. We are too busy.
3. We are uncomfortable.

**Which of those three reasons do you resonate with the most? Why?**

Ignoring people is a lot easier than loving them, especially when they don't look, think, act, or vote like we do. Life gives us tons of reasons to ignore others, but that's not the example of Jesus. Jesus was never afraid to love people, even though it ultimately cost him his life. Even though Jesus was busy saving the world, he always had time for everyone who needed him. And he got thrown into some really difficult situations at times, but instead of running away from them, he ran toward them. He embraced it and took every opportunity to love people well!

**What is one way you can be more like Jesus this week?**

**If you feel too busy to love people, what is one way you can free up an hour this week to devote to loving someone?**

## PRAY

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

## TO GO

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

- Romans 12:9