



## Sermon Discussion Guide

Feb. 17 & 18, 2024

"Life Maker"

[Genesis 1:1-5](#)

During Lent this year, we'll be going through a sermon series called "The Heart of God." In order for us to understand what it means to be a "Church After God's Own Heart" we need to look at God's heart. Join us each week as we dig into the character of God and get to know Him better, so we can love others better.

### PRAY & CONNECT

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation. Ask God for wisdom and discernment and trust him to guide you. Take time to recap the message or view it on [HopeOnline.tv](#). Did you have any "ah-ha" moments where you felt convicted, compelled, or inspired during the sermon? What's been on your mind this week? Have you been able to apply the message to your everyday life?

### GROW

#### Read [Genesis 1:1-5](#) - "The Beginning"

- How big is your god? When was the last time you were in awe of God? What does the creation story tell us about God's relationship with us? Read Genesis 1:27 & 31. Who did he create us to be? What does it mean to you that you are God's masterpiece? Have you ever thought about that? What does that mean for you today? What about other people? Those you don't agree with? What does God say about them?

#### Read [John 13:1-17, 35](#) - "Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet"

- What is the point of following Jesus? How will people know we follow him? What disagreements do you have with non-believers? What disagreements do you have with believers? How are we to treat people we disagree with? How does "being right" sometimes give us a false sense of righteousness? Where does our righteousness come from? Read 1 Corinthians 9:22-23. What does it mean to find common ground with those we disagree with? What does that do for a relationship? What do you have in common with the people you disagree most? How can you focus on that and use that to reach out to others?

#### Read [Romans 3:23-28](#) - "Righteousness Through Faith"

- Who can earn their salvation? What can you do to stand right before a holy God? What can others do? What is the good news? How can you share this good news with someone you disagree strongly with?

### APPLY

What would it look like to reach out to someone you've had trouble loving this week and find common ground to bound with them over? Think about who that person might be. Pray about how you can start (or re-start) that relationship, trying to heal and reconcile, to truly loving someone different than you.