

Life Group Notes 1/11/2026 Mark Warren Break My Heart with What Breaks Yours—Week One

No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net. Thank you for taking the time.

— *Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.*

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our heart and guide our discussions.

Leaders: *please pre-read these notes and choose the direction that is appropriate for your group. Scan the detailed questions that follow the AI-generated study questions, to see if you want to add any more detailed questions.*

Be cognizant of your group's time and be sensitive. *Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.*

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 11/1. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. ***The purpose is to minister to one another***

Important: At [the very end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week.

Footnotes are added to supply detail, and to enhance the study. Use at your discretion, and know any questions are welcomed. This week's footnotes cover:

1. [A scribe's practical tip on praying for the lost](#)

This format begins with a summary of the notes, followed by study questions. This week, notes in full detail can be found beginning on page 3:

Section I: Summary

Here's "co-pilot's" AI summary of the Sermon Lifegroup Notes:

Summary:

This document is a set of sermon-based lifegroup notes centered on the theme "Break My Heart for What Breaks Yours." It guides participants through a reflection on aligning their hearts with God's priorities, especially during a period of prayer and fasting. The notes emphasize the importance of prayer as a means to understand God's heart and actions, rather than focusing solely on the act of fasting.

The teaching uses parables and stories—such as the lost coin and Zacchaeus—to illustrate God's active pursuit of lost people and the value placed on each individual. The notes encourage group members to share personal testimonies, reflect on times they

have lost something valuable, and discuss the emotional responses and actions that follow.

Key principles highlighted include:

- Recognizing the value of every person, regardless of their current state.
- Understanding that God takes initiative to seek out the lost, and that followers are called to do the same.
- Celebrating even small steps of progress in others, rather than demanding perfection.
- Creating welcoming spaces for people to experience God's love, rather than pressuring or judging them.
- Practicing intentional prayer for specific individuals and being willing to step out of comfort zones to show love.

The document concludes with practical steps for application, such as noticing and acknowledging people, praying specifically for one lost friend or relative, and journaling acts of love. It also suggests using the SOAP method (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer) for further personal study throughout the week.

Section II: Study questions

Opening Reflection

1. How has your experience with prayer and fasting this week shaped your perspective on spiritual practices?
2. What does it mean to focus more on prayer than on fasting? How can prayer help align your heart with God's?

Personal Testimony 3. Do you have a testimony from this week that you'd like to share with the group? 4. When have you lost something valuable? How did you respond, and what did you learn from that experience?

Exploring Priorities 5. What is the difference in your response to losing something like a phone versus a passport or wedding ring? 6. When searching for something lost, what emotions or actions do you notice in yourself (panic mode, focus mode, etc.)?

Spiritual Insights 7. What does it mean to say, "If it wants to be found, it will just come back"? Do you agree or disagree? 8. What is the funniest thing you've found while searching for something else?

God's Heart for the Lost 9. How do you interpret the idea that something lost does not lose its value? 10. What does it mean for God to actively seek out lost people, rather than waiting for them to return on their own? 11. Why do you think heaven celebrates when one person is found or returns to God?

Scriptural Application 12. What do you see in the parables about the lost coin and the lost sheep? Who does the seeking, and what is the response when the lost is found? 13. How does the concept of God as a shepherd influence your understanding of God's character and priorities?

Personal Challenge 14. If heaven celebrates the one, how can you care for "the one" in your life? Who is someone you feel called to pray for or reach out to? 15. How does your life reflect Jesus' priorities? What might others see in your actions and attitudes?

Church and Community 16. What distracts the church most often from its mission to seek and care for the lost? 17. What does it look like for a church to make space for lost people, rather than judging or pressuring them?

Practical Steps 18. Which of the practical principles for pursuing God's heart (seeing people, praying specifically, creating space, being uncomfortable, celebrating progress) is easiest for you? Which is most challenging? 19. How can you create a welcoming environment for others to experience God's love? 20. What would change in your home, school, or community if you lived out these principles more intentionally?

Section III: Complete study notes

This is day seven in GCC's twenty-one days of prayer and fasting. The video, and afterward Pastor Mark, pointed out that too often, the focus is on the fasting and not enough on the prayer. "Prayer," says Mark, "is the time to align our hearts to what God is thinking and feeling, and it allows us to get a sense of what God is doing."

1. Do you have a testimony from this week, so far?
2. Do you remember the video on prayer? What struck you?
3. The video said, "We pray because the greatest tragedy of all time is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer." Explain. What is your reaction?
4. The new series is called, "Break My Heart for What Breaks Yours." How does that fit into what Pastor Mark is saying?

Pastor began the message saying, "Imagine losing something small, but incredibly valuable." He went on, "I don't mean your phone, because that's incredibly stressful when you lose your phone. I'm not talking about your keys, because, when you're in a hurry that is a real inconvenience. I'm talking about a wedding ring, a paycheck, or a passport that you need before a trip."

1. Relate testimonies. When have you lost something valuable?
2. Go over pastor's list above. What is the difference in response to losing a phone and losing a passport?
3. Between losing keys and losing a wedding ring?
4. Think of each of the items. Share your thoughts as to value of each and the desperation of the search.
5. What do you do when you lose any of the items?
6. Have you ever said, "If it wants to be found, it will just come back?" Explain.
7. What is "panic mode," and when does it kick in?
8. What is "focus mode," and when does it kick in?
9. What is the funniest thing you have found in the deepest depths of your couch, when looking for something else?

Pastor related the story of when he lost his wedding ring, and it turned up under the cover of his bed after he prayed that God would allow an angel to find it and place it where Mark would see it.

1. Do you remember the story?
2. Has this ever happened to you? Share with the group.

Pastor says, "If we're going to capture God's heart, we need to understand what God cares about." Look up Luke 15: ⁸Or what woman who has ten silver coins and loses one of

them does not light a lamp, sweep her house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹And when she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors to say, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost coin.' ¹⁰In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who repents."

1. What do you see?
2. Is the story about a coin?
3. What is lost?
4. What is the response when the lost is found?
5. Pastor says, "God cares a lot about lost people." Weigh in. What do you see?

Mark lines up three points from this parable:

1. **The coin is lost but incredibly valuable.** It does not lose its value because it is lost. It is not worthless or disposable. He says, "This is important, because a lot of people who are lost will think, 'I'm too far lost. I'm too far gone. Those good church folks won't care about people like me.' Jesus destroyed that lie. These parables show that God cares about all people, lost or found."
2. **The woman takes initiative.** She doesn't wait. She doesn't blame or scold the coin, and does not assume that the coin will find its way back. She lights the lamp and sweeps the house. She searches diligently. Pastor says, "This proves another point: God is not passive with lost people. Look closely at Luke 19:⁸*But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, half of my possessions I give to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will repay it fourfold."*" ⁹*Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham."* ¹⁰*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*" Jesus did not come to build religious systems, He came to find lost people. At one time, each one of us in this room was one of those people."
3. **Heaven celebrates one.** Mark says, "When the coin is found, there is a party. It's not the thousands that bring rejoicing, not the crowds, not the movements. He rejoices over the one. Heaven throws a party when one person comes to God."

Go back over each point:

1. Have you noticed this before?
2. What do you see?
3. Mark asks, "If heaven celebrates the one, shouldn't we care about the one?" Answer him.
4. What one are you caring about? Write down the name, share with the group and take the time to pray together.

Examine now Ezekiel 34:¹⁵*I will tend My flock and make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD.* ¹⁶*I will seek the lost, bring back the strays, bind up the broken, and strengthen the weak; but the sleek and strong I will destroy. I will shepherd them with justice.*' ¹⁷*This is what the Lord GOD says to you, My flock: 'I will judge between one sheep and another, between the rams and the goats.* ¹⁸*Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture? Must you also trample the rest of the pasture with your feet? Is it not enough for you to drink the clear waters? Must you also muddy the rest with your feet?*

1. What do you see?
2. Can you see from where Jesus drew his parables? Explain.
3. Who is in greater danger in Ezekiel's parable? Why?

4. In this light, who was in the greatest danger in Jesus' day? Why?
5. Who did the seeking in Jesus' day? Who does the seeking today?
6. Whom does He seek? What did He do when they were found?
7. Looking at Ezekiel, why does Jesus call Himself the "good shepherd?"
8. Pastor says, "From Genesis to Revelation, God is always moving toward people. God's pattern has always been pursuit." Explain.
9. Why did God say, "Adam, where are you?"
10. He continues, "The interesting thing, though, is that God moves toward lost people through people like you and me." Explain. Can you prove this claim?
11. Review how you were found. What was God's part? What was another person's part?
12. How does your life reflect Jesus' priorities? Have you ever wondered?
13. Answer this question: If true followers of Jesus reflect His priorities, what do the lost see?
14. Answer Pastor's next question: Why does this matter?

Pastor then says, "I think that sometimes the lost are thinking, "We need to get our lives together then we can come to Jesus."

1. What is wrong with this concept?
2. If those who labor and are heavy laden come to Jesus, what is their reward?
3. Pastor says, "It's OK for lost people to act like lost people." What does that mean?
4. What does that make a church look like?
5. He continues, "The lost are not a distraction from the mission. They are the mission. When the church stops caring about lost people, we stop looking like Jesus." Explain.
6. What distracts the church most often from the mission? Do you have a testimony?

Pastor's practical principles to pursue this week to align my heart with God's:

- † **Start by seeing people again.** Acknowledge that the people you see each day exist. The woman noted that the coin was missing. Anything lost has become invisible. Lost people have become invisible. Slow down. Make eye contact. Listen intently. Pay attention. Pastor says that is the most spiritual thing you can do.
- † **Pray specifically for one person.** The woman searched diligently for one lost coin. She did not give up until the coin was found. Pray daily. Watch for what happens. Look at [footnote 1 below](#) when you get a chance, for guidelines to praying for those you love.
- † **Create space not pressure.** Pastor calls attention to the fact that the woman does not scold the coin for being lost. The shepherd did not scold the sheep, and the father did not scold the son when he returned. Instead there was a party in each case. We are instead to "invite people into spaces where God's love is experienced." Our job is not to save people. Our job is to make room. God finds. God changes. We open the door and set the table. We share our story. (We host the party.)
- † **Be willing to be a little uncomfortable.** Pastor points out that the search for the coin demanded she look in unlikely, inconvenient, uncomfortable spaces. The actual search could involve uncomfortable conversations, risking rejection, giving time where we'd rather spend it for ourselves. Comfort was not the goal, when seeking God's heart. Love was. Love is the mission.
- † **Celebrate progress, not perfection.** Look again at Zacchaeus' story from above in Luke 19:⁸*But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, half of my possessions I give to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will repay it*

fourfold."⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

1. What do you notice with Zacchaeus? What changed? What might not have changed?
2. Characterize Jesus' attitude toward Zacchaeus, beginning with the latter climbing the tree to see Jesus.
3. What small baby steps did Zacchaeus take, and how did Jesus respond?
4. Why do you think Jesus did not make further polite observations to "help" Zachaeus perfect himself?
5. Have you ever tried to "help" others? Did it work?
6. Discuss each of these principles. What do you see?
7. Which is the easiest to understand and do?
8. Which will be the most difficult?

Pastor invites us to imagine what it would look like if we all began to live this way: "We prayed intentionally. We loved patiently. We invited boldly. We celebrated freely."

1. What would change in our homes, our schools, at work?
2. What changes if our neighbors are sought for but never judged?
3. What if our outreach was an invitation to a party, and not a threat of doom, or a boast of superior intellect and lifestyle? How would that change our own attitude?
4. What does fish and game do when someone is lost on a mountainside or in the woods? When does the search and rescue mission stop?
5. When does the church's mission stop?
6. How can you join Jesus on this mission to find the lost?

Take the time to pray.

Follow up application:

1. Use the **Soap study below** to pursue your own understanding.
2. Ask yourself today, "How does my life reflect Jesus' priorities?" Write down Jesus' priorities as you understand them, and then write down your own. Reflect on these this week.
3. Ask God to help you notice people, and not just pass by them. Note anything that happens. Share it in your group.
4. Write down one name of one lost friend or relative. Set your heart and mind to pray diligently for that one this week. Write down what comes to you as you pray.
5. **Top priority action step:** Do one uncomfortable act of love this week. Journal the step and the result.

Footnotes:

1. **A scribe's practical tip on praying for the lost**—When we pray for others, we often seek to fill God in on what we see in them, especially of their shortcomings and needs. The best news is simple: God does need not a review of everything that's wrong with the lost friend or relative for whom we pray. He knows what it means to be lost. As partners in His search, we are asked to foresee and foretell what an answer to our prayer will look like. As when he met Zacchaeus, He also knows how to reach them. In that case, remember, He invited Himself to Zacchaeus' table for

dinner! Paul has set a remarkable example of how we should pray for others by putting his own prayers in writing. In the first chapter of Philippians and the first and third chapters of Ephesians, we see how Paul prayed, and his prayers are powerful. This week, praying for others, change “we” to “I,” and substitute your friend’s name for “you” and use Paul’s prayer for the Colossians in Colossians 1:⁹*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,* ¹⁰*so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,* ¹¹*being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have full endurance and patience, and joyfully* ¹²*giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.* See how they grow as a result. NO prayer that Jesus prayed, from the Our Father to His prayer in John seventeen, was ever prayed without the knowledge that that prayer would see specific, affirmative results for ever petition made.

For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP method** (Scripture—Copy the scripture. / Observation—Write what you see. /Application—Write what God is saying. /Prayer—Write what your response is.) to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: Luke 15:3-7
Tuesday: Luke 15:16-19
Wednesday: Luke 19:8-10
Thursday: Ezekiel 34:15-19
Friday: Colossians 1:9-12
Saturday: Philippians 1:9-11
Sunday: Ephesians 3:14-19

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.