

# Priority

This week we're learning about what's most important in our lives and how we can know the priorities God has put before us.

WATCH THE VIDEO

[NorthlandChurch.net/Studies](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Studies)

Afterward have someone read the discussion questions in the "Hear God's Story" section and start the conversation.



## Share Your Story

Each of us has a story. The events of our lives – good, bad, wonderful or challenging – have shaped who we are. God knows your story, and He intends to redeem it – to use every struggle and every joy to ultimately bring you to Himself. When we share our stories with others, we give them the opportunity to see God at work.

When we share our stories, we also realize we are not alone – that we have common experiences and thoughts and that others can understand what we are going through. Your story can encourage someone else, and telling it can lead to a path of freedom for you and for those you share it with.

Begin by praying together. This should be a brief, simple prayer in which you invite God to give you insight as you study. You can pray for specific requests at the end of your time together or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

***Then begin your time together by discussing the following questions.***

- How do you determine your priorities in life?
- How does the Bible help us understand God's priorities for us?

## Hear God's Story, and Create a New Story

READ MATTHEW 22:36-40 (NIV) & MATTHEW 6:33-34 (NIV)

- According to Jesus, what is the greatest commandment? What is the second-greatest commandment?
- In the Matthew passage, what did Jesus tell us not to do?

***In this section, talk about how you will apply the wisdom you've gained from the teaching and Bible study. Then think about practical steps you can take in the coming week to live out what you've learned.***

- What do the greatest commandments tell us about what our life priorities should look like?
- What does Jesus' warning not to worry about tomorrow tell us about what things we tend to make a priority?

- What are some of the things you tend to make a priority? Do they line up more with the great commandments or with the things Jesus warned us about?
- What have you experienced in your life when your main priorities have related to worrying about tomorrow? When your main priorities have involved love? What about when your priorities were in between on that spectrum?
- What are some ways you can put those great commandments into motion? Read 1 John 5 and John 15:10 for examples of how we love God. Read 1 Corinthians 13 for examples of how we love one another.

***Give each person an opportunity to share prayer requests. If you'd like, you can write these on the Prayer and Praise Report. Close your discussion with prayer.***

## **Digging Deeper**

If you feel God is nudging you to go deeper, take some time between now and our next discussion to dig into His Word. Explore the Bible passages related to this session's theme on your own, jotting your reflections in a journal or in this study guide. Want to go deeper? Select a few verses, and try paraphrasing them, writing them in your own words. If you'd like, share them with the group the next time you meet.

Gandhi said, "Action expresses priorities." The quickest way to determine our priorities is to look at how we spend our lives. Jesus said the same thing when He called us to arrange our lives around the great commandments: loving God and loving others. When we consider what biblical love looks like, it's a full-time engagement that requires our attention and focus everywhere, every day.



- What are the practices of love? Who are the people you're called to love that way?
- List two people you can love better this week. What are some specific ways you can practice love, as outlined in this passage?
- What are the obstacles to practicing love that way? Who can help and encourage you on that journey?
- What's a way we can love God, according to this passage? What makes that practice of love difficult?
- In Matthew 11:28-30 (NLT), Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." He went on to say, "My yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light." What does it mean that keeping God's commands is a light burden?
- What are two ways you can love God more this week? What gets in your way of practicing that love? Who can help and encourage you on that journey?

**This week's study is also available on Northland's apps or at [NorthlandChurch.net/Studies](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Studies).**