

# CONVERSATION STARTERS

JANUARY 10, 2021

## LEADER CHECK-IN

1. Happy New Year! 2021 has finally arrived and we hope you're ready to *hit refresh* with your group as we continue to be the church together this year. Given the current lockdown parameters, let's be sure to leverage technologies like [Zoom](#) or [Google Hangouts](#) to stay in touch, supporting one another in our spiritual journeys.

## GET STARTED

1. To kick off the year, reflect back on the spiritual practice Mandy led us through in our [January 3<sup>rd</sup> service](#). You can find the first part of the exercise at [19:26](#) and the second part at [57:13](#). Share with each other one of the words that defined 2020 for you and that you are letting go of. Then share one of the words that came to mind to inspire a more Jesus-centred way of life in 2021.
2. For those who have been reading through the [Sermon on the Mount](#) as part of our [January challenge](#), how has this been going? What version of the reading plan have you been trying? What is the spiritual exercise of daily bible reading teaching you? What in Jesus's sermon has most challenged you? What has inspired you?
3. Feel free to [watch this week's service](#) as a group or [revisit the message](#) for review.

## READ

1. Read [John 13:35](#). How do people usually say they "know" that they or someone else is a Christian?
2. Read [Galatians 5:22-23](#). Focus on the phrase, "*the fruit of the Spirit*" or "*God makes us*" as [this translation](#) says. What's the difference between *us* trying to be better spouses or parents or co-workers or neighbours, compared to allowing *God* to make us into more loving spouses or parents or co-workers or neighbours?

## REFLECT

1. How would those in your household (or those closest to your household) say you've been doing at reflecting the love of Jesus to them?
2. If they were to assess your efforts at allowing God to transform your life to make you more loving toward them, what would they notice? What might be missing?

## RESPOND

1. How can you be more intentional in 2021 in your 'closest to home' relationships to allow God to create more spiritual fruit in and through your family this year?
2. Share prayer requests for your families, spouses, children, neighbours, or roommates. How might you foster a commitment to pray for each other's families on a weekly basis?
3. If you haven't yet, it's not too late to join us in our [January challenge](#) of reading the [Sermon on the Mount](#), giving our time and attention to Jesus's most famous words that have the power to totally transform our lives.