



STONY PLAIN
ALLIANCE CHURCH

Guiding Ways

**FULLNESS OF LIFE
FOR EVERYONE**

BY PRACTICING THE WAY OF JESUS TOGETHER

Guiding Ways

We are a church choosing the way of love over fear. In the power of the Spirit, we will follow Jesus' invitation to love God, each other, self and creation.

Moment by moment, aware of our humanity, together we choose:

curiosity over assumption

hospitality over self-centeredness

humility over pride

prayer over self-reliance

adventure over certainty

forgiveness over resentment

confession over self-preservation

faithfulness over perfection

creativity over competition

generosity over scarcity

mercy over judgment

hope over despair

GUIDING WAYS

There are countless ways we can choose to live our lives. Lifestyle experts and family members, political pundits and co-workers, global media enterprises and neighbours, everyone, is promoting, demonstrating, or revealing a particular way of life. Some ways we find repulsive. Some ways we find attractive and compelling. The truth is that in every moment of every day we are choosing a way of life that influences the direction, experiences, relationships, and quality of our lives.

There is a lot at stake when it comes to choosing a way.

As a church, we believe that the best way, of all the possible ways in the world, is the way of Jesus. It's a way that we are learning to practice together.

What does it mean to do this in real life? When we look at the life of Jesus and listen to his message, one thing that stands out is that the way of Jesus is the way of love. To love God, each other, self, and creation, in the power of the Holy Spirit is the essence of what Jesus invites us to do with him. For us, this means choosing the way of love over fear.

1 John 4:17-19 in the Message says:

God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day—our standing in the world is identical with Christ's. There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love.

We, though, are going to love—love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. He loved us first.

Over the last few years, as we've prayed about what it means to practice this way of love over fear, something we call our 'Guiding Ways' has emerged as a tangible and practical

expression of the choices we can make on the journey toward fullness of life.

As a staff team, we've held these guiding ways before us for the last three years as we desire to be with Jesus in his way of healing. We are feeling the significance of this in our own lives and relationships.

So, we are inviting you to join with us in what is becoming a sacred and holy adventure that constantly calls us back to reliance on the Holy Spirit and an ever-deepening commitment to togetherness.

The way of Jesus isn't just different from every other way. His way is better. We bless you in His name to discover the truth of this as you engage with the 'Guiding Ways' and experience the miracle of perfect love banishing fear in every aspect of your life and our community.

GUIDING WAYS SELF-EXAMINATION

In a practice of *self-examination*, ask Jesus to help you consider each set of contrasting ways below and reveal your tendencies in each area toward ways of love or ways of fear. There is no score. This is an invitation for God to search and know our hearts and thoughts and reveal barriers to fullness of life (Psalm 139:23-24) that may exist in us.

curiosity ○○○○○○○○○○ assumption

hospitality ○○○○○○○○○○ self-centeredness

humility ○○○○○○○○○○ pride

prayer ○○○○○○○○○○ self-reliance

adventure ○○○○○○○○○○ certainty

forgiveness ○○○○○○○○○○ resentment

confession ○○○○○○○○○○ self-preservation

faithfulness ○○○○○○○○○○ perfection

creativity ○○○○○○○○○○ competition

generosity ○○○○○○○○○○ scarcity

mercy ○○○○○○○○○○ judgment

hope ○○○○○○○○○○ despair

CURIOSITY OVER ASSUMPTION

Ask Jesus Questions

- Jesus, how is **curiosity** part of your way of love?
- Jesus, how does **assumption** show up in my life?
- Jesus, what am I afraid of that causes me to move toward **assumption**?
- Jesus, what does your Love want to say to my fear?

Prayer

Jesus, please bring your healing into this place of fear that manifests as **assumption** in my life.

Spirit, empower me as I choose your way of **curiosity** today.

HOSPITALITY OVER SELF-CENTEREDNESS

Ask Jesus Questions

- Jesus, how is **hospitality** part of your way of love?
- Jesus, how does **self-centeredness** show up in my life?
- Jesus, what am I afraid of that causes me to move toward **self-centeredness**?
- Jesus, what does your Love want to say to my fear?

Prayer

Jesus, please bring your healing into this place of fear that manifests as **self-centeredness** in my life.

Spirit, empower me as I choose your way of **hospitality** today.

HUMILITY OVER PRIDE

Ask Jesus Questions

- Jesus, how is **humility** part of your way of love?
- Jesus, how does **pride** show up in my life?
- Jesus, what am I afraid of that causes me to move toward **pride**?
- Jesus, what does your Love want to say to my fear?

Prayer

Jesus, please bring your healing into this place of fear that manifests as **pride** in my life.

Spirit, empower me as I choose your way of **humility** today.

PRAYER OVER SELF-RELIANCE

Ask Jesus Questions

- Jesus, how is **prayer** part of your way of love?
- Jesus, how does **self-reliance** show up in my life?
- Jesus, what am I afraid of that causes me to move toward **self-reliance**?
- Jesus, what does your Love want to say to my fear?

Prayer

Jesus, please bring your healing into this place of fear that manifests as **self-reliance** in my life.

Spirit, empower me as I choose your way of **prayer** today.

ADVENTURE OVER CERTAINTY

Ask Jesus Questions

- Jesus, how is **adventure** part of your way of love?
- Jesus, how does **certainty** show up in my life?
- Jesus, what am I afraid of that causes me to move toward **certainty**?
- Jesus, what does your Love want to say to my fear?

Prayer

Jesus, please bring your healing into this place of fear that manifests as **certainty** in my life.

Spirit, empower me as I choose your way of **adventure** today.

FORGIVENESS OVER RESENTMENT

Ask Jesus Questions

- Jesus, how is **forgiveness** part of your way of love?
- Jesus, how does **resentment** show up in my life?
- Jesus, what am I afraid of that causes me to move toward **resentment**?
- Jesus, what does your Love want to say to my fear?

Prayer

Jesus, please bring your healing into this place of fear that manifests as **resentment** in my life.

Spirit, empower me as I choose your way of **forgiveness** today.

CONFESSION OVER SELF-PRESERVATION

Ask Jesus Questions

- Jesus, how is **confession** part of your way of love?
- Jesus, how does **self-preservation** show up in my life?
- Jesus, what am I afraid of that causes me to move toward **self-preservation**?
- Jesus, what does your Love want to say to my fear?

Prayer

Jesus, please bring your healing into this place of fear that manifests as **self-preservation** in my life.

Spirit, empower me as I choose your way of **confession** today.

FAITHFULNESS OVER PERFECTION

Ask Jesus Questions

- Jesus, how is **faithfulness** part of your way of love?
- Jesus, how does **perfection** show up in my life?
- Jesus, what am I afraid of that causes me to move toward **perfection**?
- Jesus, what does your Love want to say to my fear?

Prayer

Jesus, please bring your healing into this place of fear that manifests as **perfection** in my life.

Spirit, empower me as I choose your way of **faithfulness** today.

CREATIVITY OVER COMPETITION

Ask Jesus Questions

- Jesus, how is **creativity** part of your way of love?
- Jesus, how does **competition** show up in my life?
- Jesus, what am I afraid of that causes me to move toward **competition**?
- Jesus, what does your Love want to say to my fear?

Prayer

Jesus, please bring your healing into this place of fear that manifests as **competition** in my life.

Spirit, empower me as I choose your way of **creativity** today.

GENEROSITY OVER SCARCITY

Ask Jesus Questions

- Jesus, how is **generosity** part of your way of love?
- Jesus, how does **scarcity** show up in my life?
- Jesus, what am I afraid of that causes me to move toward **scarcity**?
- Jesus, what does your Love want to say to my fear?

Prayer

Jesus, please bring your healing into this place of fear that manifests as **scarcity** in my life.

Spirit, empower me as I choose your way of **generosity** today.

MERCY OVER JUDGMENT

Ask Jesus Questions

- Jesus, how is **mercy** part of your way of love?
- Jesus, how does **judgment** show up in my life?
- Jesus, what am I afraid of that causes me to move toward **judgment**?
- Jesus, what does your Love want to say to my fear?

Prayer

Jesus, please bring your healing into this place of fear that manifests as **judgment** in my life.

Spirit, empower me as I choose your way of **mercy** today.

HOPE OVER DESPAIR

Ask Jesus Questions

- Jesus, how is **hope** part of your way of love?
- Jesus, how does **despair** show up in my life?
- Jesus, what am I afraid of that causes me to move toward **despair**?
- Jesus, what does your Love want to say to my fear?

Prayer

Jesus, please bring your healing into this place of fear that manifests as **despair** in my life.

Spirit, empower me as I choose your way of **hope** today.

GUIDING WAYS SELF-EXAMINATION (PART TWO)

In a practice of *self-examination*, ask Jesus to help you consider each set of contrasting ways below and reveal your tendencies in each area toward ways of love or ways of fear. Compare your answers to those at the start of the series. Reflect on the work you and Jesus have done together over these last few months and celebrate that.

curiosity ○○○○○○○○○○ assumption

hospitality ○○○○○○○○○○ self-centeredness

humility ○○○○○○○○○○ pride

prayer ○○○○○○○○○○ self-reliance

adventure ○○○○○○○○○○ certainty

forgiveness ○○○○○○○○○○ resentment

confession ○○○○○○○○○○ self-preservation

faithfulness ○○○○○○○○○○ perfection

creativity ○○○○○○○○○○ competition

generosity ○○○○○○○○○○ scarcity

mercy ○○○○○○○○○○ judgment

hope ○○○○○○○○○○ despair



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