



# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 1 August 11, 2024

“Addiction in America’ with Greg Krausz”

## OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we gather today, open us by the Holy Spirit to a great understanding about the various forms of addictions. Aid us as we support brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, kids and grandkids amid their recovery and sobriety. May the Holy Spirit give us new eyes to see and new ears to hear your voice through the Holy Scriptures. All this we pray in Jesus’ precious name, Amen.

## SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

### Romans 12:14-16, 21 (NIV)

*<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.*

*<sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

### 1 Corinthians 6:12 (NIV)

*“I have the right to do anything,” you say — but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”— but I will not be mastered by anything.*

### Mark 12:29-31 (NIV)

*<sup>29</sup>“The most important [commandment],” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup>Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup>The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”*

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## INTRODUCTION

From the smallest towns to largest cities in our nation and across the world, substance abuse and addiction can be found. Addictions can come in many forms - with a variety of factors - including genetics, mental health disorders, and more playing a factor in one’s experience. As we seek to follow God’s command (also echoed by Jesus) to “love our neighbors” let us equip ourselves with knowledge and wisdom to aid ourselves, our loved ones, and community in the areas of addiction and recovery.

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## QUESTIONS

1. What do you know about substance abuse and addictions?
2. What are some ways a church community can combat substance abuse and addictions?
3. How might we better “love our neighbors as ourselves,” especially when it comes to substance use disorder?
4. While well-intended, what are some actions that might actually not help, but rather harm, those who are suffering from substance use disorder?
5. How do you see faith in God helping you and others amid temptation and sobriety?

## FINAL APPLICATION

What is one step you can take this week, for yourself or another person, to stop the harmful effects of substance abuse and substance use disorder? How can this group help support you?