



## LOVE, LOVE, LOVE

If you have a pattern of having someone in your group share their *Story of Faith* (life before Jesus, encountering Jesus, life since/late with Jesus) and/or sharing *Evidences of God's grace*, begin with that, followed by a time of thankful prayer for Christ's work in the individual's life and/or the grace in your lives.

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### OPENING COMMENT

The primary evidence that Christ is in us, and that we are in Christ, and the first fruit that He wants us to grow, is love. As God the Father loved His Son, Jesus, so Jesus loves His disciples - which becomes the foundation for our love for one another. First & foremost, God wants us to love Him, and then to love others.

What stood out to you from Sunday's text and sermon?

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### READ THE TEXT: John 15:9-17

<sup>9</sup>"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. <sup>12</sup>"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. <sup>17</sup>These things I command you, so that you will love one another."



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The word “love” appears nine times in these nine verses. What is the significance for the readers of John to make note of when that kind of repetition happens?
2. What are the misconceptions that our culture has about love? What does Jesus tell us love is, and the significant way it should be demonstrated in the life of a follower of Jesus? Read 1 John 3:18, Colossians 3:14 for reference.
3. God’s nature is broad (He is personal, all powerful, all knowing, ever-present, sovereign, holy, absolute truth, righteous, just, merciful, faithful and eternal), but because He is love (read 1 John 4:7-9), He is, as Josh McDowell put it: *“unconditionally committed to my well-being.”* Do you believe that God is unconditionally committed to your well-being? Read Psalm 103:8-14.
4. What are the some of the signs that you can see in a person, that would show others they are becoming a mature follower (disciple) of Jesus Christ? *“As the Father has loved me,” said Jesus, “so have I loved you.”* - Here are eleven ways that Jesus loved His disciples and loves us (take time to read the corresponding passages to be challenged and encouraged) - *Giving:* John 3:16, Romans 8:32; *Choosing:* Ephesians 1:4,5,11; *Knowing:* John 1:47-48; *Befriending:* John 15:13-14; *Showing Compassion:* 1 John 2:1-2; *Correcting:* Ephesians 4:15; *Serving:* Matthew 20:28; *Sacrificing:* Romans 5:8; *Restoring & Reconciling:* Romans 5:8-11; *Sending:* Matthew 28:18-19; *Indwelling of the Holy Spirit:* Acts 2:1-4
5. We cannot exactly duplicate the ultimate expression of Christ’s love because the redemptive value of His death is singular and cannot be repeated. But, the attitude of love that took Jesus to the cross, should take us as far as we need to go, in our relationship with each other, to show others the same love of the Gospel message that is offered to all. How do you share the love we find in Christ with others?

## CONCLUSION

Love is the evidence, the key indicator, that Jesus is in us and that we are abiding in Him; that we don’t just profess Jesus, but that we possess Him and He possesses us. For a follower of Christ this will be manifested and seen by the world around us through our love towards God and towards one another.

## SHARE & PRAY

- Share how you can pray for each other in light of what this text has impressed upon you. Take some time to discern how you might serve as individuals and as a group.
- We live in an age when we are easily susceptible to craft, create, and to following the Jesus of our own making. Pray that we will Abide in Jesus and love one another daily, staying close, staying connected to Him.



- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, for the areas of growth and grace you are seeking, and the needs among you.

