

RELATIONSHIPS: LIVE LOVE
LIFEGROUP STUDY
Jan. 31, 2021
LEADER NOTES

Welcome back to our LifeGroup series, Relationships! Today, as we wrap up our series, our topic is called, “Live Love.” The night before he went to the cross, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment – “Love one another as I have loved you.” Followers of Jesus are to be known for and characterized by our love for one another. What does it look like to love one another just as Jesus loves us? How can we grow our love for others in this time of the pandemic? These are the questions we’ll dive into as we explore the topic, “Live Love”.

ICEBREAKER: I Love It!

“Love” is a word we often use to describe our affection or appreciation of something. “I love ice cream!” “Ya gotta love the Leafs!” “I love my home.” Thinking of love in this way, share with the group – **what did you love about where you lived when you were 10? What do you love about where you live now?**

STUDY

Think back to Ken’s teaching about loving others in the same way Jesus loves us. On Sunday, Ken defined love as this - *Love is the decision, often accompanied by feelings of affection, that seeks to serve the good of the other person and longs for blessing in their life.*

- **What do you think of this definition? Would you add or take anything away from it?**
- **What key elements in this definition are important for us to understand and why?**
- **Why is it important to know what love is?**

LEADER NOTE: Knowing what love is helps us to act it out and to realize we are loving when we act it out. If we think love is only a feeling, that will truncate our understanding and acting out love. If we act it out but don’t realize it is love (such as Ken’s illustration of helping a stranger out of snow bank) then we miss something of the blessing of what we have done.

Loving Others As Jesus Love Us

READ: John 13:34

“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.” NLT

- Jesus says, “Just as I have loved you ...” As a group, see if you can **come up with a list of 5 examples of how God has loved us**. For example – God has loved us by giving us His Son (John 3:16). For each act of love, **cite the example, a Scripture and an application**.

<u>“Just As” I Have Loved You</u>		
Example	Scripture	Application
Ex. God Gives.	John 3:16	Give to one another.
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

LEADER NOTES: There are many examples in Scripture of how God has loved us. Here are some of the key ways God has shown His love for us.

- God serves – “And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet.” John 13:14
- God forgives – “Instead, be kind to each other, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.” Eph. 4:32
- God comforts – “He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others.” 2 Cor. 1:4

- God blesses – “May the LORD bless you and protect you. May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you. May the LORD show you his favour and give you his peace.” Numbers 6:24-26
- God is patient with us – “The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake.” 2 Peter 3:9

READ: Matthew 22:37-39

- **What are the two commands in the Great Commandments?**
- **How does this New Commandment take the Great Commandments and pull them together into one? Why can Jesus do this?**

LEADER NOTE: The word “command” in this context means an injunction, ordinance or law. Jesus had the authority to give us this command because He is God. Jesus instituted this new commandment, the law of love, and by doing so he brought the two Great Commandments of “Love God” and “Love others” together into one. He is bringing them into one because he is God. If you look to him and love as he loves then you are looking to God and loving like God loves. He is God. We see the love of God not just in Scripture but we see it in Jesus in Scripture. To the disciples this was very much real. Matthew, how have I, God, loved you? Peter, how have I, God, loved you?

- At Creekside, our mission is to FOLLOW JESUS, LOVE GOD and LOVE PEOPLE. Jesus said, “The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” **Why do you think Jesus chose the word “love” as our ultimate goal, rather than “follow” or “obey”?**

LEADER NOTE: Jesus chose the word “love” to describe the highest ethic we can live by. To love is to obey God and follow Jesus. Jesus said, “If you love me, obey my commands.” (John 14:15). John wrote, “Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome.” (1 John 5:3) Love and obedience are tied together, but our motivation and our highest ethic is love. We have been loved by God, therefore, we love Him by following Jesus and obeying his teachings.

- In giving his new command, Jesus changes our emphasis from loving others as we love ourselves, to loving others as Jesus has loved us. **What is the difference between “Love your neighbour *as yourself*” and “Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.” (John 13:35)?**

LEADER NOTE: Jesus is the ultimate example and revelation of God's love. The Old Testament law commanded the Israelites to love their neighbour as they loved themselves. In the New Testament, Jesus' command to love others as He has loved us turns our eyes from ourselves to Him. Jesus' model, particularly his death on the cross, makes all the difference in how we understand and live out love. "Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other." 1 John 4:11

Our Mission: Love Others

In giving us His Son, God has given us a new MISSION.

READ: John 13:35

"Your love for one another will prove the world that you are my disciples." NLT

- As followers of Jesus, we have a new mission – to show the world God's love. **What are 3 or 4 practical ways we can show God's love during the pandemic?**

LEADER NOTE:

If you have time, have your group go to 1 Corinthians 13. Walk through it and then identify an action of love from that passage that each member of the group might identify as one they need to work on. IDEA – make a list, put up on the Chat and pray for each other for that area to blossom in your lives.

Here are two key ways we can show God's love during the pandemic.

1. Involve and Invite: In the pandemic, many are longing for connection and friendship. Ask God and look for ways you can be involved with neighbours, co-workers, people who are far from God. As God opens a door, invite them to get to know Jesus.
2. Serve: In the pandemic, what are some practical ways you can serve the needs of others? Serving can be calling on the phone just to check in, bringing someone a hot meal, helping someone move. As we serve, we model God's love for others.

- What is a key takeaway for you from this study?

PRAYER:

Creekside helps to support several individuals and families who are involved in Global Missions. This week let's focus our prayers on our Global Mission partners.

- Pray for our Global Missionaries, the N family and the C family as both face challenges of needing to travel for visa purposes. Pray for safe travel, protection from Covid, and success in getting needed paperwork.
- GO Global! Join us MONDAY EVENING Feb 8 at 7:00 pm for a chat with Kent Annan of Wheaton College on "Reaching out without burning out in the new reality". Meet some of our 'glocal' ministry partners as well. Register at <https://www.creeksidechurch.ca/missions/>