

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINE TERM 2 WEEK 1

11 May 2017

One Life – Loved by God

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

1 John 4:7 (NIV)

Icebreaker

Do you have a funny story to tell about a time that you tried to show someone that you care by loving him/her in your love language and not his/her own?

Introduction

The world gives us a distorted view of love. When it comes to love, we need to go back to its source – God Himself – and read what He has to say about it in His Word. The Bible uses different words in Greek to express different kinds of love, but the word used the most by far is *agape*. *Agape* is self-sacrificing love, it is love that wants the best for the other person.

Discussion

- How do you define love? Share with one another.
- Read 1 John 4:7-9. What three ideas do you see about love from the text?
God is love; God showed His love among us; and we should love one another.
- Discuss this quote. Do you agree or disagree with it?
'Love is not affectionate feeling, but a steady wish for the loved person's ultimate good as far as it can be obtained.' (C.S. Lewis)
- Love is a choice, but it is not only a choice. Love is a choice to act. What does love lived out look like? Read 1 Corinthians 13. How can you grow in love in your family and your workplace? What hindrances to love do you face in these areas?
- God calls us to love the unlovely and the undeserving. This is no easy task. Where are we to get our motivation?
If we are to have super-abounding love, it has to come from an experience of the grace of God. When we remember that He reached out to us with super-abounding love when we were both unlovely and undeserving, we cannot but love others in gratitude for God's grace. Read 1 John 4:19 and Romans 5:8.
- Make a commitment to pause each day and remind yourself that you are loved by God, then ask Him how you can express this love to someone today.

Prayer

- Spend some time meditating on Romans 5:8 and write down a prayer of gratitude in response to the truth of this Scripture.
- Pray this Scripture over each other:
'I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.' (Ephesians 3:16-19 – NIV)
- Pray for those who are finding it difficult to love family members, friends, neighbours or colleagues.
- Pray that the gospel would shine brightly in our city and God's people experience His love and love others in the same way.