Grow Group

5 Expressions of Love

**Lesson #1**

We being the church should take on the characteristics of Jesus. So what does that look like?

**Jesus told Philip in John 14:9,** *“He who has seen Me, has seen the Father.”*

If Jesus & the Father look alike, then we should be able to describe Jesus in one word - LOVE! That’s because in 1 John 4:8 &16 the Bible tells us that, “God is love”.

Being Like Jesus

Jesus prayed for His church in John 17:21 that we would be one in Him just as He and the Father are one. In other words, just as Jesus resembled the Father in love, He also wants us, as His church, to resemble Him the same way.

We want to look like, sound like and act like Love! But what does love look like?

**I. What are we commanded to do in these 2 verses:**

* **Mt.22:35-40** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **John 13:34-35** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

It’s one thing to love others as we love ourselves, it’s another thing to love others as Jesus loves us! So let’s describe the way Jesus loves us.

**This study is going to look at 5 ways Jesus demonstrated God’s love to people and how that applies to us as the church today.**

**1. Love Relates to Others**

**2. Love Prays for Others**

**3. Love Informs Others**

**4. Love Heals Others**

**5. Love Helps Others**

**I. Love Relates to Others**

**Read Luke 19:1-10 > Story of Zacchaeus**

* **Tell the story, then re-tell it by going around the room with each person giving a sound bite of the story.**

**i).** Why did Jesus want to spend time with Zacchaeus?This speaks to love’s motive.

**ii).** Do you agree or disagree that our ultimate goal in relating to people is to introduce them to Jesus?

**iii).** What should we consider giving people first before we expect them to receive our message?

**iv).** What potential barriers stood in the way of Jesus being with Zacchaeus?

**v).** What potential barriers stand in your way in being with others?

**Read 1 Cor.13**

List the ways love is characterized in vs.4-8

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* Which one of these characteristics do you admire the most?
* Which one of these characteristics has been a struggle for you?

**vi).** **How do we overcome those barriers?**

According to **2Tim.1:7** who is the one who helps us love like God? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**vii). List a couple practical ways that love tries to relate with others:**

**a).** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **b).** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Take a moment to pray for someone you plan to intentionally relate to this week that needs Jesus? Maybe there’s someone in the group tonight that needs your time.
* **Care through prayer.** Partner up with someone in the group. Share a prayer need and take a moment to pray for each other?