



THE CAMPUS CHURCH
LOVE AND SERVE GOD AND PEOPLE

Small Group Discussion Resource
The Time is Now, 1 Peter 4:7-11
Love Each Other Deeply

Begin by reading our text, 1 Peter 4:7-11 and then pray for God's guidance and illumination as you study together.

1. Thinking about love, our world has produced more movies, poems, books, TV shows, plays, and more all about love. What are some of the biggest ones that jump to mind? What do you think about them? What does it tell you about our culture?
2. How is Christian love the same as worldly love? Where is it different?
3. Discuss this quote from D.L. Moody together as a group:
"There is no use trying to do Church work without love. A doctor, a lawyer, may do good work without love, but God's work cannot be done without love."
4. Read Philippians 1:9-11 together. Is there anything that immediately stands out from Paul's prayer for love?
5. Both Peter in 1 Peter 4, and Paul in Philippians 1:9 discussed **growing** in our love. What does it look like to be continually growing in your love towards other people in and out of the church?
6. Describe someone who is hard to love. What are the obstacles we all face in loving people?
7. Discuss this quote from the Roman Theologian Tertullian:
"These Christians are very strange people. They speak of One by the name of Jesus, who is absent, but whom they seem to be expecting at any time. And, my, how they love Him and how they love one another."
8. A few weeks ago, as a church we discussed what it means to **love the Lord your God with all your mind**, how does engaging your mind with God help you grow in your love towards other **people**?
9. If we're going to show love to people, then we need to know how to love people. How should we show Godly love to people? Consider the following areas:
 1. Sin, both ours and theirs
 2. How we handle disagreements
 3. How we seek to encourage others
10. Discuss what it means that love isn't always nice, but it shouldn't be mean.

11. Read and reflect on this passage. ² *My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:2-3*

There is a significant correlation between love and faith development. If we want to really know Christ as a church, we need to realize that being united in love plays a huge part in that. Faith does not grow well in a hostile environment. Faith flourishes in an environment of love. In the Message paraphrase this verse reads - *I want you woven into a tapestry of love.* What images does this conjure up for you?

12. Read through 1 Corinthians 13 out loud. Identify from this passage what love is and what loves is not.
13. The message paraphrase uses this wording for 1 Peter 4:8. *Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything.* How do you feel about this rendition?

14. Reflect on this quote by C.S. Lewis

Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.”
C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

15. Many people are familiar with the love language concepts. These concepts allow us to love deeply instead of loving in a trite way. In a nutshell they are:

Talk – tell people that we love them

Time – spend quality time together

Trinkets – give meaningful gifts

Touch – give appropriate affection

Tasks – doing practical things for people

Which love language most resonates with you? Brainstorm on creative ways to speak all of these love languages.

16. Take a few moments of quietness, read the verses below and try to memorize them right now. Then, recite it to each other off by heart!

³⁴ *“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”* John 13:34-35

Going Deeper: Read 1 John 4:7-12, 16-21. What jumps out of those verses to you?
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