

Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday while diving deeper into God's word.

- *Who is one person in your life that has loved you well? What is it about their love that has made such a lasting impact in your life?*
- *What is the difference between loving someone and liking someone? Can you love someone while not liking them?*
- *What insight, observation, or principle from this weekend's message did you find most helpful, insightful, or troubling? Explain.*

There are 14 different instances in the New Testament, where followers of Jesus are encouraged to, "Love One Another." Since the inauguration of the Jesus' Church, the one test for proving genuine faith has been that a community of believers loves one another. When the Church genuinely loves one another, Jesus' Gospel is incarnated through us! Let's learn how to love one another!

Start digging. Read 1 John 4:7-21

- *Who was the author of 1 John? See John 13:23 for some insight into how the author describes himself. Why would this author be the perfect person to write to us about God's love?*
- *From this passage of scripture, where do we find the motivation to love one another? How does the answer to this question alter the way you strive to love others?*

- *What is the difference between the way we experience love from our world, versus the love we experience from God?*
- *What does someone's absence of love for others say about them?*
- *Have you ever questioned God's love for you? How does 1 John 4:9 reassure us during these times of doubt?*
- *John describes Jesus' love as a propitiation for our sins. What does that mean?*
- *What does it look like to abide in God's love as described in 1 John 4:16?*
- *According to 1 John 4:17-21 there are several changes that occur in us when we experience the love of God, what are they? How have you personally experienced this transformation in your own life?*

Digging Deeper

- *What is one insight, observation, or truth that you are taking away from this study that you did not previously have prior to this study?*
- *What is one intentional step that you will commit to taking this week as a result of what you have learned from this study?*

I LOVE MY CHURCH

“Love One Another” | June 4, 2017

John 13:31-35 (ESV) *When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³²If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

THE LOVE I HAVE FOR THE CHURCH MARKS ME AS A FOLLOWER OF JESUS.

Church = “Ekklesia”

“A gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place, an assembly.”

John 17:20-21 (NLT) *“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. ²¹I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.*

THE GOSPEL BECOMES IRRESISTABLE WHEN THE CHURCH LOVES ONE ANOTHER.

THREE WAYS TO LOVE MY CHURCH:

1. COMMITMENT:

I love my Church by being committed to it!

Acts 2:42-43 (ESV) *And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.*

➤ **Devoted** = Persistent; Closely-Associated; Serve Personally

2. CONTRIBUTION:

I love my Church by contributing to it!

Acts 2:44-45 (ESV) *And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.*

3. CONSISTENCY:

I love my Church by being consistent in it!

Acts 2:46-47 (ESV) *And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*