

DISCOVERING LIFE TOGETHER SERIES: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
Seriously, Love One Another! John 13:31–38

MESSAGE NOTES

- I. Meaning of Love
- II. Love in Action

Questions for Community Groups and Individual Bible Study

For Starters: What do you love? How would you define love? Does love get confused with *like* or *lust* in current culture? Discuss.

The Basics: John 13:31–38 begins the *Upper Room Discourse* (through 17:20). In these opening verses, what concepts or ideas did Jesus explain to His disciples? What stands out to you and why?

Quick-Fire Round — John 13:31–38

- What new command did Jesus give His disciples? In what way was it “new”? Read Deuteronomy 6:4–5 and Leviticus 19:18.
- Discuss the following words for love and how each one impacts your life and relationships: Hebrew *ahava* = communal, relational (Genesis 2:22, Genesis 37:3); Greek *storge* = family affection (Romans 12:10); Greek *phileo* = friendship (1 Peter 3:8); Greek *eros* = sensual, romantic, emotional.
- Read John 13:34–35. Jesus used a new word for love: *agape*—a love that defines God (1 John 4:7–12). It is unconditional, unselfish, unlimited, and unlike any other love. Why are we, His disciples, commanded to agape one another as **the** marker of Christianity?
- Read Acts 2:42–44 and James 2:1–4. How should agape be expressed in church community? How well do we as a church express agape toward one another? To others?
- Agape is love *in action*. Read the following verses and consider how you could practice agape in your family, church, community, workplace, etc.: Mark 9:50, Galatians 6:2, Ephesians 4:32, Hebrews 10:24, James 5:16, 1 John 4:12, 1 Corinthians 12:25, Colossians 3:13, and 1 Thessalonians 5:15.

The Challenge: In the second century, the Gospel transformed communities through the bonds of agape love the Christians displayed for one another. What would happen if the church did the same today? Who is God asking you to agape this week?

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

Prayer: *Father, thank you for unconditionally loving me. Help me love others the way you love me. May I love without discrimination, animosity, jealousy, or anger. Give me the capacity to practice love to all people. Amen.*