



Session 2: Selfless Love

INTRODUCTION

Recap

Last time, we discussed Acts 2 and dreamed of the impact we could have on those around us when we practice embodied faith.

Share in Pairs: Check in about last session's action step(s). What was it like? Where did you see God at work?

Vision + Objective

We love selflessly, through our words and our actions, because of Jesus' love for us. Embodying our faith through love is the foundation of the flourishing community.

Opening Discussion

How does our culture define love? Brainstorm the different ways we use the word, how love might be expressed differently depending on the relationship, or even how the media depicts what it means to love.

Pray to transition.

PASSAGE STUDY

Background

- 1 John is an ancient letter written to ancient churches after Jesus' resurrection. This new community is navigating what it means to be Christ-followers amidst opposition from Jews who don't believe that Jesus is the Messiah.
- The author wrote the letter in hopes of helping the community flourish (1 John 1:1-3). This passage, right in the middle of the letter, digs deeply into the theme of love. John claims that love is a key marker of true Jesus-centered community.

Read 1 John 3:16-24

Observation:

- What words, phrases, images, or ideas are repeated? Which of these might you have skipped over if it wasn't repeated?
- How does this passage define love?

Interpretation:

- How do the repeated words connect to each other?
- What does this text teach us about God?
- What does this text teach us about love?

Application:

- What makes it difficult for us to love each other as described in the passage?
- What challenges or inspires you from today's discussion?

RESPONSE**Activity**

Spiritual Journey Timelines: Because love is the foundation of the flourishing community, reflect on how you have personally experienced God's love in your life. Sharing our stories also helps us know one another more deeply.

- Write a list of the significant events in your life and consider times when you felt loved by God.
- Draw a line graph visually depicting the ups and downs of your spiritual journey and mark the key moments or time periods.

Share your timelines in pairs or as a whole group. Encourage everyone to practice attentive listening to honor the person sharing.

Action Step

Who might the Lord be calling you to love through action? What might that look like in your life? Pray for them and practice selfless love in action tangibly this week.

Prayer