

The ONE ANOTHER way

TRANSFORMING RELATIONSHIPS

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK ONE

This guide can be used on your own or with a small group to reflect on the weekend message and apply it to your life.

- To aid in the discussion time, you may wish to text out one or two of the questions below, encouraging your group to begin thinking about their answers.
- Knowing the people in your group, facilitate the conversation in a way that best represents the relationships present: marriage, family, friendship or work.

ICEBREAKER

Who is someone (past or present) whose kindness or love has left a lasting impression on you? What made it memorable?

LEADER'S NOTE

The command to "love one another" is familiar, but putting it into practice is often challenging. This week's discussion explores how God's love transforms us from the inside out so that His love becomes visible through our everyday relationships.

1 Love Begins with God

Key Scripture: 1 John 4:7–8

Discuss:

- When you hear the phrase "God is love", what comes to mind? How has your understanding of God's love grown over time?
- What are some ways our culture defines love differently than the sacrificial love described in Scripture? What's one area where you need to shift the way you love towards what we see in Scripture?

Leader's Note:

John reminds us that love is not something we manufacture—it originates with God. The more we understand His character, the more our understanding of genuine love begins to change.

2 Love Is Experienced Through Knowing God

Key Scripture: 1 John 4:7–8

Discuss:

- What's the difference between "knowing God" and "knowing about God"? Have you ever had a moment where you went from knowing about God to actually knowing God?
- What helps you stay connected to Christ throughout a typical week? What tends to pull you away?
- How can you begin to remove the things that pull you away, and replace them with things that help you know Him more?

Leader's Note:

Christian love flows from an ongoing relationship with Jesus, not merely a past decision. Encourage the group to think about spiritual habits that help them remain connected to Christ each day.

3 Love Is Revealed Through Christ

Key Scripture: 1 John 4:9–10

Discuss:

- What stands out to you most about the way God demonstrated His love through Jesus?
- What makes loving the people around us so hard? (Hint: They aren't the only problem!)
- How does the cross reshape your understanding of both God's love for you and your response to Him? Considering that, how should the cross influence the way we love the people around us?

Leader's Note:

The cross is the clearest picture of God's love. Before we're called to love others, we're invited to reflect on the depth of Christ's sacrifice for us.

4 Love Is Expressed Through Us

Key Scripture: 1 John 4:11–12

Discuss:

- If God's love is expressed through us, what does that tell us about the importance of Christ-centered community? In other words, why do we need Christ centered community?
- What are some ways that you've experienced the love of God through another believer?
- How can we express love for one another within this group? What might this look like practically?

Leader's Note:

God's love is meant to be experienced personally and expressed publicly. Small, intentional acts of love often become powerful demonstrations of the gospel to those around us.

WRAP UP QUESTION

You afford yourself the ability to speak into someone else's life by building relational equity – what are some ways that we can build relationships with one another outside of normal discussion time so that we can go deep together as a group?

Closing Prayer

Leaders:

Pair up the people of your group with each other and ask them to pray for one another throughout this next week. Exchange numbers and ask each other how you can be praying for them this week.

Then close your group time in prayer:

Thank God for His unconditional love displayed through Jesus Christ. Ask Him to deepen your relationship with Him so His love will overflow into your relationships this week. Pray for the courage to love others with grace, patience, and compassion, and lift up any personal needs or prayer requests shared by the group.