

“Love”



To the leader:

Open your group in prayer, and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions in the notes, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions at the end of the page.

On Sunday, Pastor Nick wrapped up our “Rethinking Your Life” series by talking about love and how the definition of it has changed in our culture but it’s vitally important to understand its true meaning and purpose in our relationship with God. There are implications to God’s love in our lives like changing our personal identity, eternal destiny and life journey. We learned that a logical response to God’s love is to love Him in return with all that we are and to express our love to others!

“True love is more than just a feeling and changes your life forever.”

- ◆ What does “agape” mean and in what way is that different than the world’s definition of love?
- ◆ What are the consequences or implications of such a warped definition of love?

Let’s review the points from the message Sunday:

1. God’s love changes my personal identity

- ◆ In what way does God’s love renew you? How has it changed the way you view yourself?
- ◆ What makes it hard for people to trust in the fact that God is willing to identify with us? Have you struggled with this yourself?

2. God’s love changes my eternal destiny

- ◆ In what way is the phrase “they’re in a better place” not always an accurate line of thinking? Why do you think people usually resort to this phrase?

- ◆ Describe the time when you came to terms on exactly what God’s love meant for your life. What changes did this make in your life?

3. God’s love changes my life journey

“All who have this hope in Him purify themselves, just as He is pure.” 1 John 3:3

- ◆ What implications does God’s love bring to your life? In what way does His love change how you think, act and worship?
- ◆ In what way is loving God with all that you are a logical response to His love in your life?

Now what?

- ◆ **Be patient:** Instead of treating people how they deserve, think of the way God dealt with you!
- ◆ **Be kind:** This isn’t niceness or saying what you want to hear, but showing truth in tangible kind ways!
- ◆ **Be selfless:** Having other’s needs in the forefront of your mind.
- ◆ **Be forgiving:** Live with short accounts with people and not holding what they did against them anymore.
- ◆ **Even with enemies:** If you aren’t going to be Jesus to them, who will be?

“God, THANK YOU for your love. Thank you for loving me for who I am not what I’ve done. I’m beyond thankful for the home that I will, one day, have with you in Heaven! Thank you for being patient and loving with me. I commit to loving you with all that I am! I pray that I would, in turn, love others in the same way. Allow me to be your hands and feet in the lives of people this week. Amen.”

Three Essential Questions

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you’ve learned today?*

