

SERIES BIG IDEA:

We are better when we love one another.

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

My love for Jesus requires me to love all others.

TEACHING SUMMARY:

In this teaching, we were asked "How can we know how much we love God?" Jesus elevated the importance that a person cannot love God without loving others. This illustrates that our relationships with others are just as important as our relationship with God. When Jesus established His new covenant and gave His one new command, it would fulfill and replace all of the other commands. Jesus created a new family whose identity would be in Jesus' love for them and they would each be identified as part of Jesus' covenant community by this: "As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34 (NIV)

Jesus would model this to us as He would selflessly serve us by giving up His life for us to show us His love. We respond to His love by remaining in it and obeying His new covenant command. Our love for Jesus requires us to love all others.

TALK IT OVER:

Talk about some of scriptures and questions below with one or more people. Be honest with your answers.

How do you throw around the word "love?" What or who do you often say "you love..."

What are some reasons that keep you from loving others?

What do you first think when you hear, "You cannot love God without loving others."

Matthew 22:35-40

What do you think the first century people thought when Jesus made these two commands equal?

Read John 13:12-17, 34-35

How did Jesus set an example of loving His neighbor, loving His enemies, and loving each other?

How did Jesus demonstrate His love for you when you were his enemy (Romans 5:10), neighbor (Luke 10:36-37), and friend (John 15:11-17)?

How does reminding yourself how Jesus has loved you empower you to love others?

FURTHER READING:

2 John 5-6

1 John 3:16-19, 24

Galatians 5:22-23

John 14:15-26