

WEEK 2  
GATHERING  
TOGETHER

WE ARE  
GOD'S  
FAMILY  
ON MISSION TOGETHER

**How do you demonstrate to God that you love Him?**

**Jesus revolutionized how the world sees God, and He redefined what it means to love God.**

SERIES BIG IDEA:

**We are God's family on mission together loving Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and sharing Jesus to build up Christ-centered families by wrapping God's family around your family.**

**To see Jesus is to see God.**

(John 12:45; John 14:9; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Philippians 2:6; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3)

**To love one another and all others is to love God.**

<sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" <sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Matthew 22:36-39 (NIV)

**We can love others and not love God, but we cannot love God without loving others.**

**My love for God is demonstrated in my love for those in proximity to me.**

<sup>34</sup> "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34-35 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup> "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

John 15:9-12 (NIV)

**How we love one another is a testimony of how God has loved us and a demonstration of our love for God.**

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

**We are loving Jesus by gathering together to love one another.**

<sup>1</sup> We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. <sup>3</sup> For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." <sup>4</sup> For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

<sup>5</sup> May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, <sup>6</sup> so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

<sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed <sup>9</sup> and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

Romans 15:1-9 (NIV)

**We love Jesus when we accept one another as Jesus has accepted us.**

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May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13 (NIV)

**We love Jesus when we encourage one another to trust in Jesus, His Gospel, and His hope.**

*I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another.*

Romans 15:14 (NIV)

**We love Jesus when we challenge one another to follow Jesus as our Lord.**

*<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

**To love God I must show up to love His Church.**



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**TEACHING SUMMARY:**

Our identity is that we are God's family. This defines our mission, which drives our vision that directs our behaviors and creates the life-giving culture that God wants the Church to have.

Jesus was clear in His message about two things. First, He was clear that He is God. Second, Jesus was clear that we demonstrate our love for God by loving others

Our identity is seen in our behaviors. The Gospels and the New Testament writings describe God's love for us and how we are to love Him by "loving one another."

We cannot love God if we don't love the Church. We cannot love the family of God (the Church) if we don't gather together with the family of God. Loving one another is the testimony to the world of God's love for us, and a demonstration to God of our love for Him.

When we gather, we are to love one another by accepting one another, challenging one another, and encouraging each other to follow Jesus as Lord and trust Him as our Savior.

**TALK-IT-OVER:**

What are some reasons people don't gather with the church family?

How would you summarize this teaching?

In what ways did Jesus demonstrate God's love for you?

If we demonstrate our love for God by how we love one another, how would you rate your love for God?  
(1 - low love for God; 5 - high love for God)

Who do you need to tell about what you've learned?

**DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:**

Day 1) 1 John 5:1-3

Day 2) Romans 12:9-11

Day 3) Romans 13:7-9

Day 4) 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

Day 5) John 3:10-11, 21-24

Day 6) 1 John 4:7-21