

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS
"Community of Love"
Week of August 20, 2017

CENTRAL TRUTH: To be a Christian is to love without condition or constraint.

GETTING STARTED

1. Paul writes about love being the mark of the Christian community and goes into great depth about how that love is expressed. Take a moment to talk through what culture portrays as love; romantic love, family love, brotherly love, etc. What positives and negatives do you see in these forms worldly love?

DIGGING DEEPER

2. Read Romans 12:9-13. Paul defines love as a series of decisions. Which instances of love do you see as the easiest and the most difficult ways of loving others? Is this a way of thinking about love that you are accustomed to or is this new?
3. Many people have difficulty loving the way that Jesus called us to. If you are in a situation of dealing with someone who you'd call an "enemy", what barriers do you feel are hindering you from loving others in the radical, sacrificial way that Jesus did? What would help you to begin breaking through these barriers?
4. Blake's sermon highlighted that love will lead us to serve others and to action. As a community, what are some ways that your CG can actively love others in service? Take this time to creatively strive to meet physical needs either in your group or in your surrounding community.
5. We were reminded on Sunday that our lack of love for other people is a result of us quenching the Spirit's work in our hearts. (Romans 9:11) What are some ways that you can open your hearts to God's Spirit?

TAKING IT HOME

6. Take this time to share what ways you can make steps this week to dialogue and love on someone who neither agrees with you nor shares your views on something. How can you create an opportunity to love on your neighbor in a way that is uncomfortable and communicates God's love for them?