

Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 27, 2013

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. What key principles about love, good or bad, were shown to you by your family or close friends growing up that helped shape how you love others today?

2. The book, *The Five Love Languages*, illustrates how people communicate and feel love in different ways. Which one or two "love languages" below make you feel most loved?

- Physical Touch
- Acts of Service
- Words of Affirmation
- Quality Time
- Gifts

Which love language is easiest/hardest for you to give to other people?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. We heard this weekend how important love is, but we often hear love used in shallow ways like "It was love at first sight" or "I love you all." In thinking about God's love as a call to action, how does Romans 12:9-21 expand your view of what loving other people really looks like?

Which one of these actions do you want to make sure you add to your definition of love?

2. We all have those "moments" when we know we don't show love to someone we care about the way we should. How could the following verses help give perspective when we find ourselves saying,

"I haven't been very loving lately but it's not that big of a deal" to a friend, spouse, or family member?

James 4:17

1 John 2:3-6

1 John 4:8

Can you think of any other reasons why you or someone else could fall into the pattern of not showing love? If so, explain.

3. An essential part of loving others is putting their needs in front of our own. Read Mark 14:1-9 and John 13:1-5. Why do you think these people were willing to put aside some of their own wants or needs and help others?

What did it cost them to put their love into action?

What might it cost you to follow their example?

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back on your notes from “Love: B.C. or A.D.,” what “love in action” steps would you like to do more of in the next few weeks?

Prayer Requests:

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Romans 12:9-21

Love in Action

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”
21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. [NIV]

Which one of these actions do you want to make sure you add to your definition of love?

2. We all have those “moments” when we know we don’t show love to someone we care about the way we should. How could the following verses help give perspective when we find ourselves saying, “I haven’t been very loving lately but it’s not that big of a deal” to a friend, spouse, or family member?

James 4:17

17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them. [NIV]

1 John 2:3-6

Love and Hatred for Fellow Believers

3 We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. 4 Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did. [NIV]

1 John 4:8

8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. [NIV]

Can you think of any other reasons why you or someone else could fall into the pattern of not showing love? If so, explain.

3. An essential part of loving others is putting their needs in front of our own. Read Mark 14:1-9 and John 13:1-5. Why do you think these people were willing to put aside some of their own wants or needs and help others?

Mark 14:1-9

Jesus Anointed at Bethany

14 1 Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him.

2 “But not during the festival,” they said, “or the people may riot.”

3 While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

4 Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? 5

It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly.

6 "Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. 7 The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. 8 She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. 9 Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her." [NIV]

John 13:1-5

Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

13 1 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. [NIV]

What did it cost them to put their love into action?

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