

ICEBREAKER

Gary Chapman wrote the "5 Love Languages" - they are: Words of affirmation; Acts of service; Receiving gifts; Quality time and Physical touch. What one or two speak the loudest to you? *For more visit 5lovelanguages.com*

SCRIPTURE READING

Read together as a group: **John 21**. Take turns reading a verse at a time.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

• **Read:** 1 Peter 1:22

"You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart."

If you are among those who have accepted and who follows the truth, Peter then tells you, *"so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters."*

How do we as believer show our love to one another? What are some practical things that we "must show" sincere love?

Share a story about how you "showed" love.

Share a story about how you were "shown" love.

• **Read:** Matthew 6:14-15

"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."

Discuss a time that you struggled to forgive another person but with the leading of the Holy Spirit you were able to. What was the final outcome?

• **Read:** John 13:34

"Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other."

This is what others need from us more than anything else. This is what the world is craving and looking for more than anything else. They are looking for the love we read about in 1 Corinthians 13.

Read: 1 Corinthians 13

What have you done this past week to demonstrate 1 Corinthians 13 to those around you that you encountered as you were around your town?

• In the message we heard, *"I would have liked to know that being tempted is normal. I would like to have known and heard from other Christians in their struggles. But I think we all feared being judged or shame so we kept it to ourselves. I grew up many times thinking something was wrong with me because no one else seem to be experiencing what I was experiencing. It would have helped me in my own growth as a Christian if others had opened up and became vulnerable and real."*

What is something from your own personal experience as being a Christian that you would have liked to know as one seeking God or a new believer in Christ?

• *"To love at all is to be vulnerable."* — C.S. Lewis

Being vulnerable causes us to be authentic with each other.

Why is it so difficult for us to put into action about being authentic with one another — especially when we are followers of Christ — what stumbling blocks do we allow to be in our path of being vulnerable to the point of being authentic with one another?

• **Read:** Colossians 3:12-15

"Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful."

Love is an action. Love is a choice. What choice is God speaking to you to act upon? To restore a relationship? To demonstrate God's love in a tangible way? What is God speaking to you?

PERSONAL REFLECTION & CHALLENGE

Take a time each day this week and read aloud to yourself John 21:15-17. Replace "Peter" with your name. Allow these verses to resonate within your spirit to understand what Christ is speaking to His church.

PRAISE REPORTS / PRAYER REQUESTS