

### **The Call to Love:**

*“Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:32*

*To be a disciple of Jesus Christ is not just to be outwardly aligned with a Christian church or a Christian movement or a Christian name. Being a disciple of Christ is to be miraculously changed by the Spirit into a person with a new heart; full of love for the Father, love for Jesus AND love for followers of Jesus.*

- Does it surprise you that Jesus’ command to love one another comes after Judas leaves to betray Jesus?
- What do you believe is the significance of His timing?
- Is it easy for you to love the Father, love Jesus *and* love God’s followers? Is one easier than the others? Is one harder than the others? Why is that?
- Who is John referring to when he uses the word “brother” in his first epistle?
- Who are the “brothers” around you that are hard to love? Why are they hard for you to love? How can you adjust your heart to begin loving them as Jesus has instructed us to?

### **A “New” Commandment:**

*“A new commandment that I give to you, that you love one another.” John 13:34*

*“It is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.”  
1 John 2:8*

- The Old Testament Law was essentially a set of rules to govern love within Israel’s community. So, how is Jesus’ command to love “new”?

- “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him.” Why is Jesus glorified on the very same night that he is betrayed? What does it mean that Jesus is glorified?
- What does John mean in 1 John 2:8 when he says “the true light is already shining”?
- What’s the difference between imitating God’s love and participating in God’s love?

### **Love in Action:**

*In John 13, Jesus makes it clear that he longs for us to love the people around us and we know what that love looks like when we look at the way Jesus loved his disciples! He spent intentional time with them by inviting them into ordinary life with Himself. He asked them purposeful questions. He prayed with them. He ate with them. He served with them as well as for them! His life was an outpouring of His love. He invites us into that same rhythm with our own lives!*

- Why is community an important element to those who are training to faithfully follow God?
- Do you have a community of believers who spur you on in faith? If so, what does that look like? If not, why is that?
- Who are the people God is calling you to love? What are specific ways that you could demonstrate love to them?
- What is something that you will do this week to participate in love with the community that’s around you?

*In light of everything we’ve discussed today, is there any adjustment you need to make to the way you are thinking or living? If so, what is it and what might it look like to make this adjustment over the next week?*

*This week, challenge yourself to take a step beyond your normal routine. Put what you learned to practice by being the one to take the initiative. Ask someone in your group to grab a coffee or go on a walk and get to know them!*