

Love One Another

Read 1 John 3:11-18 and 1 Corinthians 13, then briefly consider the questions below.

This week in Sunday School, the kids will learn that the gospel motivates us to love. Scripture tells us that Jesus laid down his life and willingly took God's wrath upon himself (1 John 3:16). What an example of true love. From the beginning, God's plan of salvation was motivated by His love for us, not because of anything we could have done for Him. This gospel-centered love challenges us to love others despite personality differences and even hurtful actions.

1 John 3:14 tells us we "have passed from death to life, because we love each other." As believers, we have been given new life and this new life is shown through love.

- Take a moment to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes from the past week. How have your thoughts and attitudes been loving and full of life?
- As the holidays come to a close, we all have had moments where our hearts were not loving. Take a moment to confess any circumstances that come to mind where love was not present.

Our culture defines love as a feeling or emotion that can come and go, but Jesus has shown that love is much more than that. Love is also a choice of denying oneself.

- How does Paul define love in 1 Cor. 13:4-7? How does this definition of love contradict culture's understanding of love?

According to 1 John 3:16, we know what love is because of Jesus. Apart from Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we would have no understanding of love.

- What role does sacrifice play in loving others? Will loving our neighbor always come at a cost to us?

Let's pray:

Father, thank you for showing us what true love looks like. Apart from you and your sacrifice, we would not be able to experience love or attempt to love one another. Father, please help us to put the needs of others before our own. Please let our love pour out of our gratitude for the gift you have given us. Help us to love well.

In Your Name we pray,

Amen.