



one another | *ing*



INTRO

*in subsets if needed
(15 min)*

CARE

Looking back on the last week,
what is one thing for which you're thankful
and one thing for which we can pray?

Pray.

—

FOCUS

Today we're placing our attention John 13:34-35.
Here Jesus gives the command to **love one another** as He has loved.

Focus your time and attention on helping the group understand

- a) that love is a command, not a feeling.
- b) that Jesus is our tangible definition of love.
- c) that we learn to love like Jesus in the context of Christian community.
- d) that the stakes of our love for one another are high;
informing our world that we are Jesus' disciples.

READ

and re-read

John 13:3-14

[3] Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, [4] rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. [5] Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. [6] He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" [7] Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." [8] Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." [9] Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" [10] Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." [11] For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

[12] When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? [13] You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. [14] If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. (ESV)

John 13:3-14

[34] A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. [35] By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (ESV)

DISCUSS

(30 min)

| 1 |

What are the main ideas of this passage?

| 2 |

At the beginning of chapter 13 Jesus stoops to wash the disciples feet. How do Jesus' actions in the first passage we read give clarity to His command to "love one another?"

| 3 |

Jesus commands his disciples to "love one another." This is a command. Its something you can do. You don't have to feel it. You don't have to fall into it. You don't have to like someone. Jesus said to love your enemies. In fact when he said it he had just washed Judas's feet. You choose to love. You love others because God told you to.

What does our love or lack of love for one another communicate about the authority (or lack thereof) of God in our lives?

| 4 |

According to this passage, where do we get our definition of love? How would you define love based on the example of Jesus? Love is... Why is it so important to have love modeled for us by Christ?

| 5 |

Our passage today reminds us that people will know that we are Jesus' disciples by how we love one another. We practice loving one another on each other here in this group.

If people were to drop into this group for the next six months what would they see in our love for one another that would communicate that we follow Jesus?

This is a hard but important follow up question. What obstacles stand in the way of our group loving one another in the same way Jesus loved His disciples (us)? What can we do about it?

OBEY

(10 min)

| 1 |

Are there any principles to apply or commands to obey from our passage today?

| 2 |

Is there something you need to do
- and/or -
someone you need to tell in response to what you've learned today?

Prayer of Commission

