



SERMON DISCUSSION SHEET

WELCOME

- **New Groups:** Please take time for introductions and welcoming. How long have folks attended CCC? Is this their first community group?
- **Continuing Groups:** Take time to check in and offer updates from the week.
- Encourage everyone to share a highlight or lowlight from their week as well as any prayer requests.

CONNECT & GROW

- **Each week, questions will be provided to help individuals and groups connect with the sermon and grow deeper in faith. The following questions, prompts and discussion points are meant to help guide both personal devotion and small group conversation. Be open and flexible to additional questions.**
- Thinking back to last week, did you apply "Time over Time" to your routine? If so, how?
- Read 1 John 4:7-12, 1 Corinthians 13 and 1 John 3:16-18.
- Define love. What does love look like? Is it a thing or an action or both?
- Does love change over time? Does "love over time" create "time over time" and/or vice versa?
- Nature or Nurture. Is love 'natural' to all humans? Are we born with the ability to love or is love something we only learn over time?
- Love is the summary for the rest of the commandments; the foundation for how we should treat others; the mission for every church; the filter for how we should see the world; the framework for what we say and teach; the blueprint for building our lives; the reason Jesus came to sacrifice his life for us. Is it crucial to know God's word when it comes to understanding, demonstrating, etc love? Is it crucial to understand God's love to truly understand love? Does a lack of understanding for non-believers mean there is a lack of love? Or is God's love a deeper layer of love? Explain, defend, discuss!
- How are love and compassion similar and different from one another?
- How does love of self play into the concept of loving God and loving others? Do you need to love yourself first?
- Love God, Love People, Nothing Else Matters." (Bart Campolo) Do you agree or disagree? Explain.

Refer to the back of this sheet for prompts to use throughout the week during chair time.

CHAIR TIME & PERSONAL PROMPTS

GO

The following questions and prompts are meant to be answered individually, throughout the week during "chair time" or times of personal reflection.

- Write 1 John 4:7-12 on a notecard and put it on your mirror or car dashboard as a reminder to show love to the people in your life.
- Showing love requires paying attention to what someone likes. What does _____ seem to enjoy right now?
- "Prove it." Be physically and consistently present - prove love. God proved to us that He loves us through time. He proved it over and over and over again. People kept messing up and God keeps trying to redeem us. God created time as a platform so his consistency and predictability proves that He loves us. You prove to a person you love them over time. Who are the people who have loved you over time and proved to you that you matter? List a few things they did to prove it to you.
- Psalms offers numerous examples of how to worship God. When we feel we can't come up with words of love to say to God, Psalms provides a template. Reading a psalm of adoration out loud can actually help us move our thoughts in the direction of love—and our feelings will follow. Choose a psalm to look at this week, then choose one or more of these options: Read the psalm aloud. Paraphrase the psalm, putting it into your own words. Memorize the psalm (or a section from it) over the next week.
- Consider this: "Deposits in someone's life as a child will earn more interest. When you wait until they're adults, the gains are slower." Reflect on how this applies to your own life as well as how this impacts the lives of the people you love.
- Are you married or in a serious relationship? Write a love note to your significant other. Send your spouse a text letting them know you appreciate them.
- Are you a parent? Write a note to leave in your child's lunchbox or backpack.
- Look up the word "love" in the concordance at the back of your Bible. Choose two or three verses about love to read each day this week.
- Loving our neighbors is an extension of our love for God and our love for ourselves. Find an organization to partner with and serve with this month. Need help? Contact Pastor Lyndsey to find a good fit for you (and your family and friends, too!).

Parents! Think about the following questions taken from the Phases book series:

- It's impossible to love your child with the relentless effort they demand if you have little time for yourself. What can you do to refuel each week so you are able to give your child the love they need?
- You probably do more than you realize to show your child just how much you love them. Make a list of the ways you already show up consistently to engage your child's interests.
- Who do you have around you supporting you this year?