

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

SEPTEMBER 18, 2022



LEADER

Have everyone introduce themselves and why they decided to join a small group. Go over the Small Group Covenant

ICEBREAKER

Briefly share something great and something challenging from the summer and one thing you are most looking forward to this fall.

QUESTIONS

- Patrick said, "Everyone wants and needs to feel loved." It is important to recognize when our love cup is empty so we don't try to fill it with false intimacy or find ways to help us forget about love. How do you recognize when there is a deficit of love in your life?
- How do you recognize when your love cup is full?

READ

John 13:1

QUESTION

- How did Jesus express love in this verse? (He loved his disciples to the end of His time on earth. He did not think of Himself but others, even in his final hour)

- Why is a 50/50 proposition in relationships not healthy? (It is focused on the other person's performance, increases the pressure to perform, leads to unmet expectations, giving love is based on the need to receive love)
- How does your faith in Jesus allow you to move away from a 50/50 proposition in relationships to expressing love like Jesus? (Jesus' love says – "How can I meet your needs, how I put you ahead of myself, how can I serve you?")

READ

John 13:3-5

QUESTIONS

- What stands out to you when you read about Jesus washing the disciple's feet?
- How did Jesus show His love in this verse? (He was intentional and personal in his act of service; He showed great humility by doing this)
- From this passage, what are three things we can do to love others? (Be selfless, practice humility and demonstrate love through action - not just words)
- What "outfit" did Jesus wear in this passage? What jobs or acts of service do you tend to avoid in order to "serve from above"?

READ

John 13:34-35

QUESTIONS

- According to this passage, in what way is love more than a feeling? (Jesus did not encourage us to love – it is a command. It is a choice and a decision we make – not based on emotions and feelings.)
- How does this commandment help you understand your behavior towards others?
- Why does God want you to play a part in meeting the needs of others? (This is how people will know we are Jesus' disciples, by displaying His love)
- According to Dr. Gary Chapman there are *5 Love Languages*: Words of affirmation, Acts of service, Receiving gifts, Quality time, and Physical touch. What would you say is your:
 - Primary way to give love?
 - Most impactful way you receive love?
- What will you do this week to grow in your love for others?

PRAYER: God, thank you for teaching us how to express love and for loving us perfectly in spite of all our imperfections. Help us to love others from pure motives that seek the well-being of others first. In Jesus' Name – Amen.

LEADERS: This is the first of six sermon discussion guides. Encourage someone from your group to share their story next week. A great way to start this conversation is to consider the following questions: How did they find RPC? Where are they from? Describe their family. What is something few people know about you? Describe a person or event that influenced who you are today.