

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Amazing Grace, Awesome God, Everlasting God, Think About His Love

WELCOME

Love is. What is your definition of love? Fill in the blank: "Love is _____."

WORD

JOHN 13:34–35

³⁴ *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*

³⁵ *By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

The world needs love. We are created for love, to love and be loved. While our love is oftentimes self-centered, the Bible tells us about a different kind of love.

In the Bible, "agape" is the specific word in Greek language which means unconditional love. In **John 13**, Jesus taught His disciples about this kind of love during His last supper with them. This gathering was very crucial because Jesus emphasized a lesson that will prepare them to face the world.

AN ENDURING COMMITMENT

For most people, love is just a feeling or an emotion. But Jesus said love is a command and a commitment that goes beyond feelings.

"I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness."

Jeremiah 31:3

This is how the Bible describes God's love for us: an everlasting love. Even before we were born He has shown His love for us. Jesus loves us unconditionally from everlasting to everlasting. He knows everything about us yet He still loves us. True love is an enduring commitment.

TOWARDS IMPERFECT PEOPLE

To love perfect people is easy, but to love imperfect people is difficult for many of us.

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 5:8

Jesus loves us in spite of our imperfections. He knew that Judas will betray Him and that Peter will deny Him, yet He still loved them (**John 13:1–2, 37–38**).

All of Jesus' disciples were obviously faulty. The Bible says they even quarreled amongst themselves who would be the greatest among them (**Luke 22:24–25**). Yet despite all of the disciples' deficiencies, Jesus loved them and washed their feet like He was a servant to them.

Such is a vivid picture of agape love: an unconditional love directed towards imperfect people. This love is found in Jesus and among His true followers.

SEEK THE HIGHEST GOOD

The love of Jesus is not sentimentalism but it seeks our highest good. For this reason, Jesus taught the disciples that to be great they must be less; and to lead, they must serve (**Luke 22:26–27**).

God disciplines those He loves. It is for our good so that we may share with His holiness (**Hebrews 12:6,10**). But just because God loves us does not mean we will not experience trials and suffering.

Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet shows us a picture of what a Christian life is. Jesus set an example for His disciples to follow (**John 13:13–15**). The Bible tells us, once we come to Jesus, our sins are completely washed away and we are completely made holy. But as we go through life, we will experience the defilement of the world and we need daily cleansing (**1 Corinthians 6:9–11; 1 John 1:9**).

OFTEN REQUIRES SACRIFICE

Love transcends feelings, comfort and convenience. Love seeks the highest good which often requires sacrifice.

Jesus modeled true love to His disciples. He took the place of the lowest servant, laid aside His garments

WORD (cont'd)

and His glory then girded Himself with a towel to wash the feet of His disciples (**John 13:3-5**). Jesus here is saying the way we love people may be inconvenient and sometimes sacrificial, but we are to take action and be willing to wash each other's feet.

Love is an action, it is sacrificial. Jesus' ultimate sacrifice is dying on the cross for our sins.

LOVE LIKE JESUS

Jesus gave the true standard for love that if we are true followers of Jesus, we will love one another (**v. 34-35**).

We cannot truly love until we experience the love of Christ. This is an enduring commitment towards imperfect people to seek their highest good that oftentimes requires sacrifice. The evidence and test of a true Christian according to **1 John 4:7-8** is love, therefore we should all be known for loving unconditionally like Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Love One Another.** What is the new commandment of Jesus to His disciples according to **John 13:34-35**? What makes it new?
- 2. Beloved.** Have you experienced God's true love? How did it impact your life?
- 3. Love Like Jesus.** How do you intend to love like Jesus to specific people in your life starting today?

WORKS

LOVED TO LOVE

To love like Jesus is difficult, almost impossible to do, but if we are truly committed followers of Christ, we will love by the example of Jesus. The people around us will know that we belong to Him and that will draw them to Jesus. Show God's love to the people around you (family, friends, colleagues, neighbors, etc.).

List down your plan of actions.

Next week, share within the small group your experiences - the challenges, victories and learnings.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends