

Key Scripture

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:34-35

There are six things the Lord hates— no, seven things he detests, ¹⁷haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that kill the innocent, ¹⁸a heart that plots evil, feet that race to do wrong, ¹⁹a false witness who pours out lies, a person who sows discord in a family. Proverbs 6:16-19

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- How would you define racism, sexism and ageism?
- What's something that Christians sometimes do that really makes you upset?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- How should the church relate to culture? Reflect it, reject it, or something else entirely?
- What does it mean to love a fellow Christian the way Jesus loved us?
- Do you think the church can be used by the devil to accomplish his plan without even realizing it?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Have you ever been on the receiving end of an attack by another believer? Talk about how that affected your spirit.
- Have you ever unwittingly been used to sow discord? What happened when you realized what you did? How did you grow from that season?
- How does our love for one another prove to the world that we are His disciples? Be practical and specific.

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Father, thank you for giving us the example and not just the command of how to love one another. As the world continues to darken, let the light of your love shine through us so the world will know you are alive. Amen

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal and remove any hint of racism, sexism, or ageism from your heart.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any steps you can take to repair damage you may have caused by sowing discord in the body.
- Befriend someone that is different than you and spend time getting to know them, learn to appreciate the image of God in them that is different from the image of God in you.