

## Small Group Discussion Questions - Fall Semester // Week Ten

*Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all'. Use the questions that are helpful, skip the questions that are not. And let the conversation flow naturally.*

### Optional Ice Breaker(s)

- a) If international travel is open again next year, and you were given two weeks and an unlimited budget, where would you go? Are you planning to travel next year, if you can?
- b) If you could have an extra hour of free time everyday, but you were not allowed to do anything "productive", how would you use it? What is your favourite way to rest?

### Passage and Discussion

#### **Read 1 John 4:7-16**

- a) What stands out to you upon first reading of this passage? What is a theme, verse, or word that you find encouraging? What do you find challenging in this passage?
- b) On Sunday, Cam reminded us that John always comes back to the theme of love in this book. Why do you think this topic is so important to John? Why do you think he always comes back to this theme in his letter?
- c) On Sunday, Cam said: "love is not part of the Christian life: it is the Christian life". If you were to describe the Christian life to someone, would love be the central theme of your description? How is love the foundation for everything else we are as Christ-followers?
- d) All people can experience many kinds of love, but only those who know God can experience and give 'agape' love. What is 'agape' love; how would you describe this kind of love? What makes it different than other kinds of love (romantic love, love for friends, etc.)?
- e) **Read John 3:1-21.** Our main passage teaches that for us to love others with God's love, we must be 'born of God'. What does this passage in the Gospel of John teach us about being 'born of God'? Where does this love come from?
- f) Love is how people should know that we are part of God's family; we should 'look like' the Father's love. If you were honest with yourself, is 'love' one of the first words that other people would use to describe you? Is it one of the first words that other people would use to describe the Church?

- g) The love that we are called to show other people is 'agape' love; it is a self-giving, others-focused love. What are a few examples of this kind of love; how is it different than how the world understands and expresses love? How can we grow in our ability to express this kind of love?
- h) When we love other people, we are participating in God's mission in the world. How should our understanding of this truth change the way we approach our everyday lives? What does this tell us about our purpose in life?
- i) Twice in this passage, John addresses his audience as "dear friends". Who are a few people in your life who have spoken into your life in meaningful ways? Whose spiritual friendship are you thankful for in this season of your life?
- j) Was there anything else in the message on Sunday that stood out to you as impactful or challenging?

### **Take it Home (Optional Ideas for Response this Week)**

- a) On Sunday, Richard Quiring prayed for the church during our service together. This week, spend a few minutes each day praying for our church community; pray that God would bring protection and peace into each person's life.
- b) This week, pray and reflect on the following question: is the love that I show to other people in my everyday life 'motivated' by God? Ask God to help you show others the kind of 'agape' love that He shows us.

### **Optional Ideas for Prayer Time**

- a) In this season, it is important for us to be intentionally praying for each other. This also means that we must each choose to be honest and vulnerable with our prayer requests. Take time to 'check-in' about how each person is doing, and pray for them.
- b) As a group, spend a few minutes praying for our church community, especially those who are frontline workers (doctors, nurses, teachers, etc.). Pray that God would protect and bring peace into each person's life this week.