

2024



AGAPE LOVE

WHAT KIND OF LOVE IS THIS?

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

"Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend."

AGAPE

The Greek word that means a sacrificial love or self-giving love that is primarily concerned with the good of someone else. Agape love is much more than a feeling, although feelings are certainly part of it. agape love is demonstrated through actions.

Everyone wants to experience love, few know how to express it. That is why we are focusing on the different types of love. Look at the disciple Peter.

JESUS KEPT PETER CLOSE

1. TAKEN TO THE MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION
2. TAKEN TO JARIUS HOUSE
3. TAKEN TO THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

PROXIMITY APPLIES PRESSURE

- They love to be close until it cost something
- Pressure is because of purpose
- God is showing you something connected to your future

PURPOSE REQUIRES PREPARATION

- If you want to know if you can trust someone give them power
- God does not tempt you but He will test you in the area of relationship
- You need power to have a bounce-back anointing
- Can you handle where God is taking you?

THE WARNING

Matther 26:34-35 NIV - [34] "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." [35] But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.

- The fall never shocks God, it always shocks you
- God knows who you are, but you will do things that you think you will not do
- Relationships reveal something about you you didn't know about yourself

Recall a time in your life where you got out of character and did something you never thought you would do. What did you do? Why did you do it?

1 Corinthians 10:12 NIV- *So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!*

- Be careful not to judge others in a particular season
- Thank God for His amazing grace towards us
- God keeps you from slipping, but that does not make you invincible
- Thank God he didn't leave you in your mess

Who have you been judging? What makes you think you're qualified to judge them?

THE REALITY CHECK

DENY

Luke 22:56 NIV - [56] *A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him."* [57] **But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said.**

- You need to know who is with you for difficult times
- Be careful of those who will not take accountability
- You can't be around Jesus for years and not start looking like Him

What area of your life do you lack accountability for your actions? Why do you struggle with owning your part?

LIE

Luke 22:58 NIV - *A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." "Man, I am not!" Peter replied.*

- People love to be with you when it grants access
- Pressure comes and tests the relationship
- A person who will lie to you, will also lie about you
- Don't want people around you only when everything is good

How have lies impacted your relationships with others? What are some steps you can take to rebuild a relationship after lies impacted it?

LEAVE

Luke 22:59-60,61a,62 NIV - [59] *About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean."* [60] *Peter replied, "**Man, I don't know what you're talking about!**" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed.*

[61] **The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter.** Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." [62] **And he went outside and wept bitterly.**

- It's not leaving it's how you leave
- His behavior didn't create a barrier him and God
- God's perfect love kept coming after him
- God turns us into something else because His love transforms us
- Don't get out of character just because pressure comes

What are some reasons you have left relationships before? Did you leave correctly, how do you know?

LOVE IS WHAT LOVE DOES

- God has not changed His mind about you and who and what He said you will become
- The goal is to be like God in our relationships
- We have to be like God
- You have to have no emotional capacity to carry grudges
- Love is an action word that is determined by what you do
- Merely saying you love someone is not a true measurement of your love for them

How do you show love? Are you open to receiving love from others? What does being open to receiving love from others mean to you?

LOVE STEPS OVER FAILURES

Mark 16:7 NIV - [7] **But go, tell his disciples and Peter,** 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.' "

- He is looking for you by name
- Jesus never discounted Peter, but Peter counted himself out
- Jesus looked beyond your faults and saw your needs
- Love does not hold a record of wrongs over your head
- Love loves in spite of the mistakes and wrongs
- God cushioned the fall so that you could get back up
- Failure shows your potential

Recall a time when someone hurt and disappointed you and God told you to love them anyway. What did they do? How were you able to show them love in spite of the wrong?

LOVE FINDS YOU

John 21:4 NIV - Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

- Real love will come looking for you
- Love is not judging or condemning you
- Quit trying to talk yourself out of God's plan and purpose for you
- You do not have to chase after imposters of love, real love will find you
- God picked you knowing you had issues

Recall your first encounter of real love? Who showed you how to love? What did it feel like?

LOVE PREPARES A PLACE FOR YOU

John 21:9 NIV- When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

- Love is welcoming and inviting
- Love is not rude and intentionally hurtful

How has love shaped or restored you? What is something you are now doing that you can attribute to being loved? What has love prepared you for you?

LOVE ASSIGNS YOU

John 21:17 NIV - The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

- God loves you enough to restore you
- Your call is bigger than your fall

Recall a time you ever found yourself in space where you felt you weren't enough. How were you able to see things differently?

Luke 10:27-28 NIV - [27] He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, Love your neighbor as yourself." [28] "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

- You have to receive God's love to give love like God
- Live with the love of God in your heart
- You are the God factor in every relationship

QUESTION

How has the love of God transformed you?

DECLARATION

I love like God loves, I am the God-factor in my relationships.

PRAYER

Father God, I thank You for your agape love. You have given me the true example of love. You have taught me to love beyond differences and wrongs. Your love toward me has shown me how to be forgiving and graceful toward others. Your love is strong and powerful. It exemplifies kindness, nurturing, encouragement, friendship, loyalty, and trust. Because You first loved me, I am now able to love others and myself. I thank You for Your unconditional love. I vow to love You, others and myself all the days of my life in Jesus' name, Amen!