

January 30th, 2022

One Another

Jonah 4:1-11 NIV; John 15:12-14 NIV

1. Was there any one thing that you most agreed with or disagreed with from last weekend's message? What was it and why?

2. This Sunday, Pastor Terry spoke on the question, "Are we allowing our self-interests to keep people from experiencing the grace of God?" Where might we see this happening in our life? Explain.

3. In this series, "One Another", we continue to reflect on this idea that we do not belong to self but only to God. Jesus explains to his listeners, the importance of "laying down one's life for a friend" in John 15:12-14 and how we are to love one another. Pastor Terry said, "We must be careful to not put our preferences over people." In the examples provided below share how we can start to put people first over our own preferences.

a. Your relationship with a significant other or very close friend.

b. A family member who is difficult to get along with.

c. A tough decision that is needing to be made at church.

d. Being asked to serve or work alongside someone who you have a hard time being around.

5. **Digging Deeper:** Pastor Terry spoke on Jonah chapter 4 and how God was wanting to reveal to Jonah and to us our hearts on how we feel about those who have, or who we may consider our “enemies”. For Jonah was angry and upset that God saved the city of his enemies and it revealed to Jonah that he wasn’t willing to put his preferences aside even though 120,000 people were saved from God’s destruction and judgement. Are we okay with God loving and saving our enemies? Explain.

a. Do you believe God is able to use your enemies to save others? How and in what way?

b. Share with the group who it is difficult for you to love and why?

c. What would be some healthy practices or spiritual habits that might allow for you to learn how to “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” more often?

d. Is there anything you need to do as a result of what you’ve learned this week?

Closing in prayer: Close in a time of prayer this week. Ask the group if there are any specific things that they can pray over together that may help teach us to “love our enemies”. We also want to be praying for opportunities to share the love and grace of Jesus to those we encounter throughout the week.

