

## Love Your Neighbor: Week 3

### Life Questions

1. What lessons did you learn from your time in the Word this week?
2. Who did you share the gospel with?
3. What has God done in your life that's encouraging over the past 2 weeks?

### God First Loved You

Read *1 John 4:7-11*

In the first week we discussed how the greatest of all the commandments is to love God with our heart, soul, and mind. Here we see that God is the perfect model of love. Even as we continue to rebel against God, He continues to love us. He loves us so much that he sent Jesus to die for us! This is what makes Christianity different from any other religion in the world. Unlike other religions there is nothing we can do to make ourselves good or holy enough to be accepted by God; it's only through the finished work of Jesus that we can enter into God's presence. The only reason we know love is because God first loved us. It is *active awe* in the love that God's extended to us that motivates and enables us to love our neighbor.

One way to tell if we truly have trusted in Jesus is if we love one another the way God loves us. Our motivation for loving others shouldn't be because it is the right thing to do, because it makes our conscience feel good, or because it makes us look good to others. The way we truly know if we have trusted in Jesus and understand the gospel is if we love one another because God first loved us. The best way to show the love of God to others is through living out and sharing the gospel.

### Discussion Questions

1. The foundation of the gospel is that God loves us and there is nothing we can do to achieve salvation on our own. Have you completely surrendered your life and put your faith in Jesus?
2. Can you share a time recently when someone showed you God's love? A time when you showed God's love to someone? What does it look like to love others the way God loves?
3. There are times that we all fail to love one another. What causes us to fail at loving others? How can we change our thoughts and actions to help us love others better?
4. If we looked at an average day in your life, would we be able to say that it is a good model of love?
5. God didn't just love me first, He loved all people because we are all made in His image. Do you find yourself loving all people the same or are there biases that prevent you from showing God's love to all people?

### Application Step

Ask God to give you situations where you can demonstrate unconditional love to others. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal and convict you when opportunities arise to love someone. Show God's love to someone who isn't expecting it this week.