



“Love Chattanooga”

We love Chattanooga. It’s our heart as a church to love this city and the people in it, and point them to the hope of Jesus. As we do that, it’s important to look at what it really means to Love Chattanooga. It’s a great hashtag and looks good on a bumper sticker, but what is really behind it? In this service we ask that question and have the opportunity to talk to people who are loving Chattanooga in their lives everyday.

“Dear children, Let us not love with words or speech but in actions and in truth.” 1 John 3:18

1. Do you think we live in a culture that shows love in actions and in truth, or tries to show love simply with words and speech?
2. It’s easy to skim over the first two words of this verse, but the phrase “*dear children*” reminds us of who we are. If we have put our trust in Jesus then we are His children, which means we can love out of that place. We can love the way that He has loved us. Read 1 John 4:9-11 and discuss the definition of love that is defined clearly in these verses.
3. Are there people in your life that you can love in this way...without conditions, without expecting anything in return, without expecting them to change before you extend love to them? Is it hard for you to love in this way?
4. If we try to love out of our own compassion we will fall short, but when we love remembering that God loved us first, we can truly show people the love of Jesus. Discuss with your group why it is important for us to love with the mindset that He loved us first.
5. Is there a way that as a group you can come together and Love Chattanooga? Is there a way that you can Love Chattanooga on your own, in your sphere of influence?

Can you imagine what this city would look like if we all loved from that place? Out of who we are because of Jesus? Loving not in words but in action; one person at a time, one life impacted at a time.

We love because He first loved us, that is why we Love Chattanooga.