

# Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **ROOTS** :: **Part 7 – LOVE**. February 28, 2016



## Welcome & Prayer (based on Ephesians 3:14-21)

\*We pray to You Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. We pray that from Your glorious, unlimited resources You will empower us with inner strength through Your Spirit. Jesus, please make Your home in our hearts as we trust in You. May the roots of our lives grow down into Your love and keep us strong. Bless us with the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep Your love is. May we experience Your love more and more, though it is too great to understand fully. Continue to make us complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from You Lord. All glory to You God, You are able, through Your mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Amen.

## Connect

**I LOVE** \_\_\_\_\_ (finish the following statements with one word each)

\*I love to eat \_\_\_\_\_ \*I love to play \_\_\_\_\_ \*I love to make \_\_\_\_\_  
\*I love to go \_\_\_\_\_ \*I love to be \_\_\_\_\_ \*I love to be with \_\_\_\_\_

## Check In

\*What is one way you experienced & engaged with...the LOVE of God this past week?  
\*How did He encourage, challenge or amaze you?

## Sunday Message Feedback

\*What jumped out at you or impacted you from Sunday's message?

1. What key principles about **LOVE**, good or bad, were shown to you by your family or close friends growing up that helped shape how you love others today?
2. The book, ***The Five Love Languages***, illustrates how people communicate and feel love in different ways. (see handout)

**Which one or two "love languages" below make you feel most loved?**

- **Physical Touch**
- **Acts of Service**
- **Words of Affirmation**
- **Quality Time**
- **Gifts**

**Which love language is easiest/hardest for you to give to other people?** Discuss.

3. We heard this weekend how important love is, but we often hear love used in shallow ways like "It was love at first sight" or "I love you all." In thinking about God's love as a call to action, how does **Romans 12:9-21** expand your view of what loving other people really looks like?
  - a. Which actions in this passage of Scripture do you need to add to your definition of love in order to grow more mature in your faith? Discuss.

4. We all have those “moments” when we know we don’t show love to someone we care about the way we should. How could the following verses help give perspective when we find ourselves saying, “I haven’t been very loving lately but it’s not that big of a deal” to a friend, spouse, or family member?
  - a. **James 4:17**
  - b. **1 John 2:3-6**
  - c. **1 John 4:8**
  
5. An essential part of loving others is putting their needs in front of our own.
 

**Read Mark 14:1-9** and **John 13:1-5**.

Why do you think these people were willing to put aside some of their own wants or needs and help others?

  - a. What did it cost them to put their love into action?
  - b. What might it cost you to follow their example?
  
6. Why is loving others like Jesus loves us so important to growing our roots deeper in Christ? What does that kind of love look like?

## Application & Prayer

Read **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

We could replace the word love with the name of Jesus.

Where in your life do you need to learn or begin to love like Jesus?

Over the last six weeks we have picked apart the supplements that Peter tells us to add to our faith in order to have deep roots and mature in Christ. Read the following passage from **2 Peter 1:5-8** and then share what supplement(s) you most identified as an area you need to actively pursue in your life in order to become more rooted in Christ. Use what people share as a focus for prayer for one another.

*Supplement your faith with a generous provision of **moral excellence**, and moral excellence with **knowledge**,<sup>6</sup> and knowledge with **self-control**, and self-control with **patient endurance**, and patient endurance with **godliness**,<sup>7</sup> and godliness with **brotherly affection**, and brotherly affection with **love for everyone**.<sup>8</sup> The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*

## Coming Up at Main Street Church

### \*PARTNERSHIP CLASS

[www.mainstreetchurch.ca/partnership](http://www.mainstreetchurch.ca/partnership)

**Date: Sunday, March 6. 6pm-8pm.** Main Street Café & Hall.

### \*Baptism Celebration

**Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.** 6pm – Main Street Auditorium.





Info & Registration: [www.mainstreetchurch.ca/baptism](http://www.mainstreetchurch.ca/baptism)

### \*Set Free Retreat (formerly Encounter God)

**Fri/Sat, April 8/9.** Main Street Chapel.

Info & Registration: [www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free](http://www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free)

# LOVE LANGUAGE

WHICH LOVE LANGUAGE?	HOW TO COMMUNICATE	ACTIONS TO TAKE	THINGS TO AVOID
 <b>WORDS OF AFFIRMATION</b>	Encourage, affirm, appreciate, empathize. Listen actively.	Send an unexpected note, text, or card. Encourage genuinely and often.	Non-constructive criticism, not recognizing or appreciating effort.
 <b>PHYSICAL TOUCH</b>	Non-verbal - use body language and touch to emphasize love.	Hug, kiss, hold hands, show physical affection regularly. Make intimacy a thoughtful priority.	Physical neglect, long stints without intimacy, receiving affection coldly.
 <b>RECEIVING GIFTS</b>	Thoughtfulness, make your spouse a priority, speak purposefully.	Give thoughtful gifts and gestures. Small things matter in a big way. Express gratitude when receiving a gift.	Forgetting special occasions, unenthusiastic gift receiving.
 <b>QUALITY TIME</b>	Uninterrupted and focused conversations. One-on-one time is critical.	Create special moments together, take walks and do small things with your spouse. Weekend getaways are huge.	Distractions when spending time together. Long stints without one-on-one time.
 <b>ACTS OF SERVICE</b>	Use action phrases like "I'll help...". They want to know you're with them, partnered with them.	Do chores together or make them breakfast in bed. Go out of your way to help alleviate their daily workload.	Making the requests of others a higher priority, lacking follow-through on tasks big and small.

[www.5lovelanguages.com](http://www.5lovelanguages.com)