

## **The Great Commandment 5: Peter and John**

### **Introduction**

We continue this week looking at Jesus' commandment to love God and love others radically changes the lives of people who take it seriously. We turn our attention to two of the Lord's disciples that were in his innermost circle. Jesus had confidence in both Peter and John, but their stories aren't free of mistakes. This week we learn about what it means to really be converted to Jesus through Peter. In John's life we learn what it takes to really learn to love others.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What did "conversion" look like for you? Was deciding to follow Jesus a moment or a process? Why was it important to you? What does it mean for your future? What does it mean for your present?
2. Read Acts 10:9-23. Peter receives a vision but it's about more than food. What is the meaning behind his vision? He is asked to respond immediately. What is his response? Who Peter should share the Gospel with get's a lot broader. Has your relationship with God made you want to share it with others? Are there groups of people you would have hard time doing this with? Who? Why?
3. The best way to learn how to love is that you've experienced being loved by someone else. Share a story about someone in your life who has loved you and what they taught you.
4. Read 1 John 4:7-21. In John's story we see a young man with not much love in his heart. He is arrogant and quick to judge. Yet, as an older man, he learned to love at the feet of Jesus, we get this amazing passage. What sticks out to you about this passage? Does this encourage you? Why or why not?
5. John links loving others with loving God. If we can't love others, we're lying to ourselves about loving God. Who are the others that are the hardest to love for you? How can you begin to see those people the way God sees them through his love colored glasses?

### **Changing Your Mind**

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. (1 Jn 4:7-12).