

This is Us: The Standard

Small Group Discussion Guide— 11/11/2018

In the past week or two, what are the things (or who are the people) you've said you love? Are you surprised at the span of things that fall into the category of "love"?

Read John 13:34-35

While Jesus gives us a new commandment – to love one another – He doesn't simply wish us well and carry on his way. Rather, he set the example for us – showing us what it looks like to love the way He wants us to.

- What are some of the ways Jesus has loved you personally in your life?
- What are some of the radical ways Jesus loved the people in his community? Look through the gospels for examples if needed.
- Some of the specific things Jesus did might be hard to literally mimic in today's society, but the heart of His actions carries through. If Jesus lived today, in 2018, what might he be doing to radically love in our community?
- What if your spiritual maturity was measured not by how many verses you have memorized, how long you've been a Christian, etc, but rather by how well you loved other people. No need to share, just take a moment to think on this.

Let's further explore what the Bible demonstrates as the meaning behind loving other people. As it has been said, the New Testament could be interpreted as a long explanation of what it looks like to love one another.

- Have a few people in the group take a few minutes to think of, or to look up, some examples of Paul, Timothy, John, James, or other New Testament figures – how did these early Christians demonstrate Christ-like love in their communities? Get as specific as possible, and share with the group.
- How can we make these examples practical in our society today? Think of some ways you can love others above and beyond this week.

How can we be a church who loves, a church who is anything but the cold, distant, rigid place that society imagines church to be? How can we help to repair the reputation of the church in our community and our specific spheres of influence?

Pray as a group – taking time to thank God for His example of perfect love, and asking Him to open our eyes to the opportunities we have this week to love His people.