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**18-02-2024**

**MAKE DISCIPLES**

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## **MAKE DISCIPLES – LOVE COMES FIRST**

**John 13:34-35**

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. - **1 John 4:7-8**

### **THE FOUNDATION OF TRUE DISCIPLESHIP IS LOVE**

(...just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another...)

10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. - **1 John 4:10-11**

16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. - **1 John 4:16**

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. - **John 13:1**

“I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”  
- **John 17:26**

### **OUR MOTIVATION FOR DISCIPLESHIP MUST HAVE LOVE AS ITS CORE**

(A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: ...)

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. - **1 John 5:2**

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. - **Matthew 9:36**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. - **John 3:16**

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. - **1 John 3:16**

14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; - **2 Corinthians 5:14**

### **OUR LOVE WITNESSES TO THE WORLD THAT WE BELONG TO JESUS**

(By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.)

...but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. - **1 John 2:5-6**

And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. - **Ephesians 5:2**

Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favour and good success in the sight of God and man. - **Proverbs 3:3-4**

Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. - **1 John 3:18**

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour. - **Romans 12:9-10**

### **COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS**

1. God reached out to us in love. How should this shape our view of discipleship?  
Why is love so central to discipleship?
2. Think of your own faith journey. Who has had a big impact on you, and how?  
Share testimony with your group.
3. It's interesting Jesus says it's by our "love" that the world will know we are his disciples. Why do you think this is the distinguishing factor?
4. Do you find it easy or difficult to love others? Pray for one another that we would have God's heart for others, and grow in authentic love for one another.