



## MISSION

### LOVING PEOPLE

**Objective for Learning:** To define what love is and how that plays out in your everyday life.

**Objective for Living:** To truly embody the love of Christ to those around you, especially those who are hard to love or are your enemies.

**Objective for Reproducing:** To be able to not only love those around you but to equip those around you to fully embrace and embody that same love for others in their lives.

#### Scriptures for Loving People:

- John 13:34-35
- Mark 12:28-31
- 1 Corinthians 13
- Matthew 5:43-48
- Philippians 2:3-4
- 1 Peter 4:8
- 1 John 4:7-8
- John 15:9-13
- Proverbs 17:17
- Proverbs 10:12
- 1 Corinthians 16:14
- Romans 13:8

How do each of these Scriptures help to **define** and **illuminate** what accountability is and why it is important?

#### Hearing (Discussion Points and Questions):

##### Overview:

When speaking of the greatest commandment in Mark 12:28-31, Jesus links the command to “love your neighbor as yourself” to His first call to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” There is an implicit understanding that if one truly loves and is receiving love from God, the natural outpouring will be an expression of that love (*agape* in Greek) to others. If we love God, we will personally experience His love and will express that love

to others. Our call is not to live by rules but by relationships, and it is our loving relationship with God that gives us the ability to have a loving relationship with others.

Agape love, the kind Jesus calls us to embody when speaking of loving others, is a purposeful, sacrificial love rooted in compassion. Agape love is a willful and determined love that generously chooses the interests of another above yourself. This act of love for both God and others demands a sacrificial love that eclipses all other loves, desires, and passions and is fully and completely directed towards God and people. It is the kind of love that can cause people to love their enemies, break barriers, and radically uproot the status quo of hatred and indifference by loving those who are not like ourselves.

### **Questions for Learning and Living:**

- € How did Jesus love people in the Gospels? What did that look like?
- € How do we love people well around us? Give some examples of people that are hard to love in your life and discuss what agape love would look like with them in mind.
- € How do we love without feeling bitter or doing it out of wrong motives?
- € What does it mean to truly love your enemies? How does that type of love manifest itself in your heart and life?

### **Questions for Reproducing:**

- € What are some ways to teach someone how to love well and that love be genuine?
- € How do we ensure that God is and remains our source of love? (If we try to simply reproduce the idea of love, that well will run dry if Jesus is not the source!)
- € What are some things that have happened in your life that have been tangible examples or representations of God's love for others? How could you reproduce that example or that idea with others?

### **Doing (Implementation and Application):**

- What is Jesus saying to you about this?
- How are you going to respond? Look at your personal discipleship assessment.
  - Give 1-3 concrete action steps that you are going to do this week to help you take the next step of learning, living, or reproducing in this area.
- Choose one of the Scriptures that really impacted you and commit to memorizing it this week.