



Discussion

Talking through the message helps you to turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Begin with the key discussion question, the privately answer the personal reflection questions. Then, conclude by deciding on your next steps.

The Main Idea:

By intentionally gathering together for Bible study, prayer, worship we dethrone the god of the individual and the god of “present”. By helping others grow in holiness we can understand how God is forming Christ in us.

Key Questions for Discussion (to discuss in groups):

1. Introduce each other in the group and tell each other how you came to know Christ and what your background before becoming a Christian was like? *Don't spend too long on this one!*
2. How do you think our culture has impacted our view of the individual? What cultural assumptions or values have influenced our sense of church community?
3. Read 1 John 3:16-18.
 1. How do we identify love?
 2. How do we follow that example?
 3. Read verse 18 again how would you describe the person who “says” but does not “do”?
 4. In the context of 1 John 3:16-18, what are some of the practical ways we can show love to others in the church? Make a list:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
4. Discuss how these “actions of love” transform the person who is taking action.
5. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:19–20.
 1. What/what is Paul's joy or crown?
 2. What does that mean in the context of love?
 3. Discuss what it might mean to love others in the area of discipleship?
 4. In the context of 1 Thessalonians 2:19–20, what are some of the practical ways we can show love to others in the church? Make a list:
 - 1.
 - 2.

- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
5. What's stopping **you** discipling another Christian/being discipled by another Christian?
6. How does listening to gossip effect love and faith?

For Personal Reflection (to do at home):

- Do you tend to believe the best or worst of others? Do you listen to gossip? Is there a root of bitterness that needs to be confessed?
- Using your journal (or a piece of paper) triangulate 1 John 3:16-18. What are the things that are true about God and true about your situation. What is the faith response to these things?
- Use the A.C.T.S. prayer method to write out your prayer in relation to fellowship.