4 Ministries: Love

God wants us to love other people, help meet their needs and make an impact on their lives

+Essentials

A

Group Discussion Flow

connect with needs

- Find out how they are doing. Ask also how their ***action to take*** and ***person to tell*** went last week.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: *"People who love us make an impact on our lives."*

  Then, surface experiences:

  "Let me tell you how I have experienced this."

  "Tell us how you have experienced this."
- Transition to the Bible by saying, *"If we want to minister to people, we must start by loving them."*

hear what God says

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.

  Choices:

  John 13:34–35
  Luke 10:25–37 (story)
  1 Corinthians 13:4–8 (In verse 8, you only need to read the first sentence: "Love never fails.")

  Two of these passages may be enough to cover in one session.

  Commentary:

  John 13:34–35 — Jesus gave a new commandment that His disciples love one another. This is how His disciples would be recognized.

  Luke 10:25–37 — The parable of the Good Samaritan is a story about loving a stranger. After being beaten and robbed, a man is left for dead along a road. A priest and a religious leader come across the man, but do not stop to help. Then, a Samaritan sees the man, takes him to an inn and pays for his care. During the time of Jesus, a Samaritan was often looked down upon and was not well accepted. With this parable, Jesus made the point that love should meet needs and not discriminate.

  1 Corinthians 13:4–8 — These verses give us a definition of love. If we ever need help knowing how to love another person, this passage shows us how.
- Discuss each passage using the following questions, or the alternate questions below:

  What do you think this passage teaches us?

  What can we learn about God or our response to God?

  How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: "People who love us make an impact on our lives"?

apply that to life

- State the main lesson: *"God wants us to love other people, help meet their needs and make an impact on their lives."* Have them write the ***lesson learned*** on their Mini-Journal card.
- Discuss:
  What are some things that keep us from loving other people?

  What is one action you can take this week to be loving and kind to someone?
- Have them write down their specific ***action to take.*** Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

tell someone they know

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after ***person to tell.*** Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

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notes and preparation checklist

pray

- ☐ Pray for wisdom.
- ☐ Pray for group members.

connect

- ☐ Think of a good personal example to share.
- ☐ Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear.**

notes and preparation checklist

hear

Alternate questions to ask:

- ☐ John 13:34–35

  In what ways does loving fellow Christians communicate to other people that we are Christ's disciples?
- ☐ Luke 10:25–37

  How does this tie to our previous discussion about the statement, "people who love us make an impact on our lives?
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 13:4–8

1. *Give some examples of how you have received love in the specific, unselfish ways described in this passage.*
2. *How does this description of true love contrast with what society typically defines as love?*

notes and preparation checklist

apply

- ☐ Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply.**
- ☐ Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- ☐ Print Love Mini Journal.

notes and preparation checklist

tell

- ☐ Encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- ☐ Look for group members who **tell** easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.