



Dear LifeGroup Leader,

How are you? How's your group going? Are you kicking off well this Fall?

This week's sermon is about love. Love is essentially our enduring attachment with another person that forms us toward God-like character. It involves warm and fuzzy feelings, but also things like commitment, direct conversations, and a shared future. When we say "I love you", we utter something deep and profound. We express a spiritual commitment to mutually growing toward God's best.

In this fact, your LifeGroup "loves" each other. You have committed to growing together in God's character by the way you share affection, direct conversation, and an ideal of God's Kingdom for which you strive.

How might you make this love more talkable during your meetings? How might you normalize the attachment and affection you share? Would it mean saying initiating by saying "I love you", or "we do this because we love each other"? I urge you to consider what God might be laying on your heart, and how this might serve your group.

-Connor



Imagination Imagine the Love

Imagination is our ability to clearly envision a specific reality. Without imagination, we're caught in "the way things are", the status quo, the cultural milieu. But what if we were to allow ourselves to clearly envision a new way of being, a new way of relating, a new way of living in our world together? John reminds us of God's lavished love. In contrast to a hollow, pithy love, God's love not only makes us feel safe, but sharpens us. God loves by leading by example, by having the hard conversation, and calls us to do the same.

FOCAL POINT: Loving with God's love means creating safety and trust, that we can sharpen each other in character.



Getting Started

Catch up together about how your week has been, possibly also revisit last week's meeting.

- ▶ What's your favorite love story?



Exploring Scripture

Read the following passage together.

1 John 3:1-3

- ▶ Where do you hear God's heart in this passage?
- ▶ What words or phrases stick out to you?



Reflection

Take time to reflect together about the passage.

- ▶ John exclaims with excitement that we are now called “children of God”. Why is this so important for him? Why is it so important to John that we understand this?
- ▶ What does “child of God” mean to you? What images, thoughts, or feelings does this bring up for you?
- ▶ What often makes it hard for you to “lavish” love like God does? What gets in the way for you?



Praxis

With the understanding that we gathered here are the body of Christ, let’s allow the truth from today’s scripture to impact us as a LifeGroup.

- ▶ The ability to give love depends on our ability to receive love. Even neurologically, the capacity to experience another’s love is what enables us to give love in return. With this truth in mind, let’s take time to experience God’s love for us as Children.
- ▶ Think about your own experience of being a child. Each of us have memories of warmth and love, and also pain and despair. We’ve experienced times where we knew we were loved deeply, and times where we were left alone and hurt, even by those closest to us. If you were to see yourself as a child, what words might you have needed to hear more often? What words might have helped you to feel more included and safe?
- ▶ These are precious words. Holding these words in mind, let’s close our eyes in prayer, and allow God to speak these words over us. Let’s allow silence for 1 minute, then give thanks.
- ▶ What was this experience like for you?



Moving Outward

Challenge each other to live out God’s truth this week.

- ▶ Take the words you spoke in the Praxis and speak them to 3 other people this week.

1 John 3:1-3

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.