

## Walking with God: Love One Another

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### Bible Study at a Glance:

God commands us to love one another. He asks us to forgive one another and not judge each other. How we treat each other should reflect the loving relationship within the Holy Trinity, which God wants to draw us into.

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(Explain to the Group) = You don't have to read this word for word, but this is the general idea of what to explain before moving on.

- **Q: These are questions to ask the whole group**

- *A: Hopefully the group arrives at most of the answers on their own, but if they don't, redirect the discussion towards these answers, and be sure to tell the group the answers if no one quite got it.*

CCC/Verses and quotes to read out loud are in boxes.

**John 13:34:** "I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another".

**Matthew 22:36-40:** "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" <sup>37</sup> He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the greatest and the first commandment. <sup>39</sup> The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

(Explain to the group) God gets more specific in teaching us how we can exercise love for one another in our interactions with each other. Let's take a look at verses that talk about these things:

**Matthew 5:43-48:** "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust. <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? <sup>48</sup> So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.

**Luke 6:37:** *“Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.*

**Matthew 7:12:** *“Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets”.*

**Colossians 3:12-13:** *Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,<sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.*

- **Q: Which of these verses do you find most challenging? Discuss why.**
- **Q: What’s the evil in gossip? Why does God tell us not to engage in it?**
- **Q: What might be some strategies to deal with gossip you’re hearing? What do you do with the information, i.e., do you believe it necessarily?**
  - *A: We should not necessarily believe gossip we hear. Even if the gossip is plausible, we should assume the best about the person or their intentions. We should also make sure not to repeat or spread the gossip.*
- **Q: Have you ever prayed for an “enemy”, or someone that causes you difficulty in any way? What effect did praying for them have on you?**
- **Q: How are we supposed to not judge other people if we know what they’re doing is wrong?**
  - *A: There is a difference between judging an action and judging a person. We can judge stealing as a wrong thing to do, but we should refrain from judging the person in the process, only God has the right to do that. Only God knows what led them to that point, how guilty they really are, etc.*
- **Q: Why do you think God emphasizes loving, forgiving and not judging each other so much?**

- *A: Loving God and loving one another go hand-in-hand. You cannot love God but hate your neighbor (1 John 4:20). We are called to union with God. Our relationships with one another must mirror the union, the loving relationships between the three persons of the Trinity.*
- **Q: Considering all that we've discussed, is there someone God is putting on your mind in terms of how you've been treating them or thinking of them?**