



Love When You Don't Like

August 1-2, 2020

Leaders' Guide

Main Idea: This week we take on the difficult topic of how to love people when we don't agree. We are in one of the most volatile times in our country's history. During this time, we need to show Jesus to those who disagree with our opinions. We are taking a look this week at how Jesus responded to those who disagreed with Him and the commands He's given us to follow.

Opening Discussion Question: What are your feelings about social media? How has it helped and hurt you?

- 1. In this controversial time, how have you seen people react and respond to people who disagree with them? How have you responded?**
 - Lack of respect.
 - Lack of love.
 - Stopping talking to people who disagree with you.
 - Accusing people who disagree with you of being something they aren't.
 - Answers will vary.

Read John 13:34-35

- 2. What command did Jesus give us in this passage? What should that look like in our lives when we disagree with others?**
 - Love one another.
 - We should show patience.
 - We should pray for people..
 - We should encourage others, not cut them out of our lives.
 - We should show love and respect to others.
 - Answers will vary.

Read Philippians 2:1-8

- 3. Why should we consider others are more important than ourselves? How does verse 5 connect Paul's instruction not to be selfish?**
 - We are called to be like Jesus.
 - We are called to be servants first.

- Jesus modeled unselfishness to us. We need to follow the example.
- Answers will vary.

Read Ephesians 4:29; James 1:19; James 3:1-12

4. Sometimes we find it easy to harshly lash out and respond to those who disagree with us. What do these verses say about what our responses should be?

- We should be slow to speak.
- We should not allow unwholesome talk to come out of our mouth.
- We should be slow to anger.
- We should be quick to listen.
- We need to control our tongue.
- Answers will vary.

Read Romans 14

5. In light of this message, what “mustache” do you need to shave off?

- Attitudes on social message
- Cancel culture ideals
- Negativity
- Fighting over opinions/lack of unity
- Answers will vary

Next Steps: What’s your Next Step in your faith journey?

Take some time this week to pray about what your next steps are.

1. Think about who in your life do you need to apologize to for past behaviors dealing with disagreements.
2. Spend some time in prayer this week and if you need to, repent for actions you may have taken.
3. Memorize John 13:34-35. Let those verses be your guideline when you are dealing with people.

Reading Plan:

Sunday- 1 Corinthians 13

Monday- Romans 14

Tuesday- Philippians 2

Wednesday- James 1

Thursday- James 3

Friday- Ephesians 4

Saturday- John 13