



Summer of Love: Part 4

Small Group Questions: Living Love

© 2016 Seacoast Church. All Rights Reserved.

Read

1 John 3:16–18; Mark 9:33–35; 1 Corinthians 13:1–3; Philippians 4:12–13; Acts 10:28–29; Luke 23:34; and James 4:6

Reflect

At the Last Supper, Jesus told his disciples that people would know them as his followers by how well they loved others. It made a big impression on John. He again wrote Jesus's words in First John 3, telling us not to love with words or speech, but with actions and in truth.

Pastor Josh Walters highlights how as children of God, we're to love people who are:

1. Like us.
 - a. Think of those you love. How are they like you? What similarities make them easy to love?
 - b. Is there someone you have a lot in common with, but still find hard to love?
 - i. Why might that be?
 - ii. In what ways might you be comparing or competing with them?
 - c. Choose contentment over comparing and competing.
 - i. Have you ever focused so much on comparing yourself to someone that you missed out on what God set aside especially for you? Explain.
 - ii. Think of a time you felt deep contentment. What was the cause?
2. Not like us.
 - a. How has God used someone very different from you to challenge you?
 - i. How did they help you see things from a different perspective?
 - ii. How have they expanded your capacity to love?
 - b. When someone disagrees with you, have you ever just asked them questions rather than focus on building a case to prove them wrong? What were the results?
 - c. Choose curiosity over criticism.
 - i. How has God shown you that he is not interested just in our behavior, but also the motivation behind our behavior?
3. Don't like us.
 - a. Can you think of someone who doesn't like you? How hard is it to even consider making an effort to bridge that divide?
 - b. Do you view yourself as a peacemaker by nature? Explain why or why not.
 - c. Choose humility over hard feelings.
 - i. In what ways has God taught you freedom through humility?
 - ii. Have you seen God transform a relationship in this way?
 - d. When you think of Jesus on the cross, praying for those causing his agony, do you consider yourself someone he's praying for?
 - e. How can you be an individual who shows God's love—today—through your actions?

Respond

What is your next step? Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?