

Small Group Homework (LEADER'S GUIDE) – February 14th, 2016

- A. Pray for your group members and your time together before this meeting.
- B. Set up chairs and snacks for your group before they arrive. Greet each person as they come into your group.
- C. Take attendance. If you have any issues email Andrea at asaffle@riverlawn.org.

Main Point

Our culture tends to define love as life's strongest feeling. Biblically, we know that love is much more than a feeling. God's love is a self-sacrificing action. The greatest example of God's love is Jesus' death on the cross. If God's love is in us it will always lead to action.

Follow Up – *Send an email or text to your group a few days after this group meeting. Simply remind them of your study and encourage them to spend some personal time reading God's Word. Here is a suggestion from this study:*

1. What is currently on your heart when it comes to helping other people?
2. Were you encouraged at your small group meeting this week? In what ways?
3. How can I pray for you right now?

Defining Words

In 1 John 4:10 we see the word "propitiation" so here's a definition for your group to consider: Propitiation means the turning away of wrath by an offering. In relation to salvation, it means satisfying the wrath of God by the atoning sacrifice of Christ. (Charles C. Ryrie) In more simple terms, it means that God is satisfied with Jesus' death on the cross.

Getting Started...

1. Looking back over last weekend's message, what point, illustration or idea did you need to hear most?

2. What are the greatest ways you see people showing love to one another today?

Into the Bible

3. Read 1 John 4:7-13 and John 13:31-35. Do you think our culture sees the Church as a loving place? Why or why not? ***Setting up this question: You might ask first how the culture sees the big C church (worldwide) and then follow up with how Wichita sees Riverlawn. Is Riverlawn seen as a loving place in our community? Why or why not?**

Jesus says the world will know we are His disciples by how we love one another. Why do you think this is such an important distinguishing mark for a disciple? ***How can we improve in the area of loving and caring for each other?**

4. Read 1 Corinthians 13. Biblical love is not an emotion but rather an act of self-sacrifice. What are some ways you can show love to those in your family, other Christians, and non-believers?
***Your group could brainstorm so many things, but we also want to make sure we don't just come up with ideas. We want to put these ideas into action. Ideas: send someone a gift card anonymously, take care of a need without asking, invite someone to lunch just to encourage them, etc.**

5. As a way of encouraging others in love, use the space below to write out something encouraging to each person in your small group. Be ready to share in your group. ***Our idea here is to have a love feast! This is semi-uncomfortable for sure, but it is so encouraging. Just pick a person to be the first recipient and then give everyone some time to speak their words of encouragement to that person. Have one person pray for the individual before moving on to the next. Have fun with this! One goal: encourage everyone!**

Sermon Application

6. Ask God for opportunities to express your love for others in action.

7. Memorize Romans 13:10 – “Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”

Prayer Requests

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