

Connect Group Discussion Guide

Week 1 – The New Old Way

Series: Relentless Love

- FOR LEADER:** Make sure you look up and distinguish between 1 John and John when indicated. They are 2 different books.
- DISCUSSION STARTER:** Ask everyone how their week was and for them to share anything God has laid on their heart/doing in their life/anything that stood out in this message.
- GROUP ACTIVITY:** Read together Matthew 22:37-40 and John 13:34 and contrast the “old” commandment of love your neighbor as yourself and the “new” commandment of love your neighbor “as Jesus loves us”.
- DISCUSSION:**
1. Point #1 was “Love has a new standard”. We discussed loving self-sacrificially (Romans 5:8), loving your enemies (Matthew 5:43-33), loving cross culturally (Luke 10:31-33), and how His love is deep (Ephesians 3:18). Discuss each one and talk about how to love with these NEW standards.
 2. Read 1 John 2:12-14. IS the command to love subjective to maturity in faith? Why or Why not? How can one “not ready” to go to this new standard of loving do it anyways? What does it look like for a new believer and a mature believer.
 3. Point #2 was “Love Drives Out Darkness”. Read 1 John 1:5-7, and 1 John 2:9-11. Talk about the idea of the absence of love indicates the presence of darkness and if there is darkness you will not be able to see the very thing that is your stumbling block (John 11:9-10). DO you think often times we fight things we cant see? Talk about how love drives out darkness.
 4. Read Titus 3:1-3 and talk about how hate is likened to “un-submission, slander, quarreling, and pursuing lusts/pleasures”. Why is it important to know these as hate? How can we begin to love instead of turning to these things when they can be the very thing our natural response tends to be?
 5. Point #3 was “Love Testifies to What is Within”. Read 1 John 2:15 and talk about how the things you “love” either indicate the presence of absence of the love of the Father.
 6. Read 1 John 2:16-17 and talk about the things that are worldly. Are there any of these you struggle with pursuing over what God calls us to pursue? What is it that God calls us to pursue? Will God still reward us with these things? Talk about how God knows we are reward driven but that He wants us to seek Him so He can be the one to bless us as a result of seeking Him first.
 7. Read Galatians 2:20-21. Have you ever treated the grace of God meaningless? What does the grace of God mean for you and how does it relate to our call to love people?
- PRAY:** Take Prayer Requests and post them to the Connect Group FB Wall with the number of people that came to group and write down the names as well.