



Life Group Discussion Guide
"Love: More than Words"
Sunday, July 16, 2017

Open with prayer

- What is a common Christian saying you were surprised to learn wasn't actually from the Bible?
- "God helps those who help themselves."
- What are some reasons we use to avoid helping the poor?
- How is the Christian's response to poverty different than social justice work?

1 John 3:16-18 NIV - "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

The Big Idea: Love is more than a feeling. It is more than words. Love is proven when it is demonstrated by action. Jesus has shown us what love looks like by his sacrificial death. As believers we are called to love others with this same selfless love.

Proverbs 19:17 - "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done."

Proverbs 21:13 - "Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered."

Deuteronomy 15:10-11 - "Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land."

1 John 3:1 - "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

- **Our goal is to love like Jesus.**
- **Real love is sacrificial.**
- **Love requires empathy.**
- **Love is demonstrated by sharing what we have received.**