



Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. How would you define love?

2. How would you define the love that is found in John 3:16?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

3. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. What verse reflects your life? What verse is something that needs to be improved? Explain.

4. Are you hard to love...sometimes? What do you think makes you hard to love?

5. According to this quote, how would you describe the love of the early church?
"He impoverishes himself out of love, so that he is certain he may never overlook a brother in need, especially if he knows he can bear poverty better than his brother. And if he suffers any hardship because of having given out of his own poverty, he does not complain. - Clement of Alexandria (c. 160-215)

6. How would you describe the love that CS Lewis talks about in this quote?
"To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable."



7. According to Matthew 5:43-48, is it hard or easy to love your enemies? What is your capacity to love others?

8. According to 1 John 4:8-17, how does someone increase their capacity to love?

Application

Below are some of the points or quotes shared in the message.
Discuss how they apply to your life.

- Agape is a sacrificial love that voluntarily suffers inconvenience, discomfort, and even death for the benefit of another without expecting anything in return.

- At no other time in the history of Christianity did love so characterize the entire church as it did in the first three centuries. And Roman society took note.

- You don't get credit for loving people that love you back.