



Session 2: Living in LOVE

Discussion opener...

- Have you noticed any of the fruit of the Spirit in action in you over this last week? Can you give examples of where the Holy Spirit has particularly helped you to respond and act as Jesus would in a particular situation?

Living in LOVE

Watch the video: <https://youtu.be/We0MiholfbM> (From 10:26 - end)

- What strikes you from this video clip?

Read John 15:9-17

v12 Jesus says 'love one another as I have loved you.'

- What did Jesus love for his disciples look like? What did Jesus love for other people (including his enemies and us) look like?
- How can we imitate that love to each other as Jesus has commanded us to?
Discuss some practical examples together and any challenges you face currently in your life now to love others. Reflect together and ask WWJD? (What would Jesus do?)

Read 1 John 3:16-20

- What does it mean (in v 18) to 'love with actions and in truth'... not just 'words or tongue'?
- In v17 it gives an example of love in action – helping those financially and materially in need. How do we see this being played out in our church currently? How easy do you find it to do that? What might it look like in your life group to do that more and more?
- What other ways can we 'love with actions' thinking particularly about our neighbours, our work colleagues, our extended families?

Romans 5:5 says 'God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us' You see we don't need to love others with our love, but with God's love that he pours into our heart.

- What do you think this means? What does it mean for you in reality?

Response

- Take some time in silence to reflect and pray. Either:
 - a) Think of one person you are struggling to love at the moment. Pray for them and ask God how you can show love to them this week – and then ask for the strength to do that!
 - b) Pray that God would show you one person on your 'frontlines' to show the extravagant love of God to this week and go and do it!
- Say the prayer of John Stott together – and then commit to saying it every day this week.

Heavenly Father, I pray that this day I may live in your presence and please you more and more.

Lord Jesus, I pray that this day I may take up my cross and follow you

Holy Spirit, I pray that this day you will fill me with yourself and cause your fruit to ripen in my life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Amen.