

## Bible Study for Sunday May 19, 2019

### Our text for this Sunday is:

John 13:31-35

### Opening Discussion:

What kinds of people are easy for you to love? What kinds of people are hard for you to love? And do you think God sees those distinctions?

### Read John 13:31-35

“Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.”

- What does it mean for a person to love as Jesus loved?
- When have you felt that you loved in this way?

What leads a person to love as Jesus loved, and how can we better position ourselves to live and love in this way?

Are you able to recall a time when you loved someone who perhaps did not deserve your affection?

- Have you ever been cared for in such a way that you felt *you* were not worthy of such love?

What do you think Jesus would have to say about our abilities to love beyond what we feel we deserve? What kind of effect can that have on a life? On our world?

This passage invites us to ponder what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

- So what does a Christian life look like?
- What must a Christian believe or do, in order to be considered a Christian?
- Could it really be as simple as a life of love?
- Could we really say that to be a Christian is to love, and to love is to be a Christian? Or, is it more complicated than that?

Imagine that someone who does not know anything about Christianity approaches you and wants to know about this thing called “Christian love.”

- How would you explain to that person?

What does Jesus say about how the world will recognize His disciples?

According to vs 35, what should be the most identifiable trait of a Christian?

- Read Matt 22:37-40; Gal 5:22.

How important is it for us to love one another?

How has the Christian world done, over the years, in loving one another and being recognized as Jesus' disciples by our love?

### **John 13:31-35 The New Commandment**

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, <sup>[a]</sup> God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."