WEEK 2

LOVE ONE ANOTHER



PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

John 13:34–35; 1 Samuel 18:1–4

BIG TRUTH

The distinguishing mark of Jesus' disciples is not sameness, but Christ-shaped love.

PREPARE: READ AND OBSERVE

Read John 13:34–35 and 1 Samuel 18:1–4. Circle repeated words, underline commands, and note what the passages reveal about God, people, and relationships.

My first observations or questions:

KNOW: UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH

As you study these passages, consider what they teach us about loving one another as Christ has loved us. Pay attention to how Jesus defines love and how His example shapes our relationships with others.

Jesus Gives Love a New Measure
The command to love was not new, but Jesus gave it a new pattern: "as I have loved you." His self-giving love—not comfort, chemistry, or personal preference—becomes our standard.

Love Creates Deep Bonds
Jonathan and David had reasons to compete, yet devotion to God bound them together. Gospel love can form durable friendships across differences of background, personality, culture, politics, age, and life experience.

Love Is a Choice Before It Is a Feeling
Jonathan made a covenant and gave costly gifts. Biblical love seeks another person's good even when affection is weak, or sacrifice is required. Feelings are important, but our commitment to love others should not depend on how we feel.

Doctrine: What We Believe
God is love, and we are able to love others because He first loved us (1 John 4:7–12, 19). Through His death on the cross, Jesus demonstrated the depth of God's love and made it possible for us to love one another. Biblical love does not compromise truth or holiness. Instead, it rejoices with the truth and seeks what is best for others.

Supplemental Passages: Leviticus 19:18 • 1 Corinthians 13:1–7 • Philippians 2:1–8 • 1 John 3:16–18 • 1 John 4:7–12

KNOW QUESTIONS

1. What is “new” about Jesus’ command in John 13?

2. What did Jonathan risk or surrender by loving David?

3. According to 1 Corinthians 13:4–7, what does love do—and refuse to do?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

Move from what the text means to what faithful obedience looks like in your actual relationships. Choose at least two questions to answer fully before the group meets.

1. Where do you find it easier to love people who are like you or who love you in return?

2. Who is difficult for you to love faithfully right now?

3. What difference or disagreement is testing your love for another believer?

4. What is one practical way you can sacrificially love someone this week?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

This Week's Practice
Choose one person outside your normal circle. Initiate contact, listen well, and take one concrete action for their good without expecting anything in return.

My specific person, action, and time:

REFLECT: ATTEND TO THE HEART

Take time to examine your heart in light of what you've learned. Consider what the Holy Spirit is revealing about your attitudes, fears, and relationships as He forms you to reflect Christ.

1. What does the way you love communicate about Jesus?

2. Where do you want others to meet your needs more than you want to serve theirs?

3. How has Christ loved you when you were difficult to love?

RESPOND AND PRAY

Jesus, love Your people through me with the patient, truthful, sacrificial love You have shown me.

One truth I want to remember:

One step I will practice:

People and needs we will pray for: