

## Small Group News

Services are ONLINE ONLY ([sunrisechurch.org](http://sunrisechurch.org))

### Food Pantry Events:

7/23: Refreshment Day; 7/30: Cheesecake Day

Email [need@sunrisechurch.org](mailto:need@sunrisechurch.org) for anyone who needs assistance

Prayer: Wisdom for Leaders; Our Church Gathering Plan

## Small Group Questions

For week of July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### **Love Is...** (Part 3)

1 John 3:14-18

## INTRODUCTION

Tina Turner once asked, “What’s love got to do with it?” Apparently, everything. Love is the most popular theme in music, and this may surprise you, but love is the most popular theme in the Bible too. But what does love look like? What is love exactly? Is it just a feeling, or is there more? This month we explore 4 realities of love from God’s perspective; and as we do, we will unpack what **Love is...**

The focus of the week: **Love is Visible**

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

1. Have you ever been told you look like someone famous, who was it?
2. You have to sing Karaoke, what song do you pick?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. This week Pastor Steve shared from 1 John 3 and stated that love is visible. He pointed out that John’s message was essentially, “if you want to KNOW you are a Christian you need to SHOW you are a Christian.” Where else in the Bible can we read about visible love?
  - **Read: Matthew 25:31-46; James 2:14-17**
    - What separates those on the right from those on the left in Jesus’ judgment?
    - How does knowing that our treatment of others is direct evidence of how we view Jesus in our hearts make you feel? How does it change your perspective on loving others?
    - Explain the connection between faith and works.
    - What is your motivation for loving others? Is it fear of judgment or a response to God’s love in your life?
    - If you never said a word would people around you know that you believe in Jesus by the way you love others and serve?
  - **Read: John 13:34-35; Matthew 5:43-48**
    - How did Jesus love us? How did He love His disciples while on earth?
    - What can you learn from Jesus’ love that helps you to love others around you visibly?
    - Describe how having love for one another would show all people that we belong to Jesus?
    - Share how loving others can help “set the stage” for them to become a follower of Jesus?
    - Who was the person who first showed you the love of Jesus in a visible way?
    - What should be our motivation for fulfilling Jesus’ command to “love your enemies,” even though that seems an impossible task?

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2. As you wrap up the conversation consider the following:

- What are some ways you can show love (and bring hope) to those you live with, live around, or work with?
- Share one small “next step” that you feel God is calling you to take in the next 7 days.

## TAKE IT HOME

This week we want you to spend time in prayer and ask God to show you how you can love people more visibly. Are there certain people who come to mind? Have you considered serving at the Peace Center or a Campus Food Pantry? How about a family member or a neighbor? Journal all the people who come to mind that may need to experience visible acts of love. Pray that God will open doors for you to share His love with them. Brainstorm some ways you can visibly demonstrate the Love of Christ for them. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Invite them over to your home to watch the weekend service
- Mow a neighbor’s yard for them
- Offer to help a neighbor with a project around their home
- Take a family member to lunch and “catch up”
- Offer to help a co-worker with a task or project
- Serve at the Peace Center or another community center

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRY CHALLENGE

This month we want you to discuss as a group a potential ministry challenge for Summer. Challenge each other to find a place, event, or cause for which you can serve together. It can be anything. Be creative. Maybe it’s something you do in a single day, like helping out at the Food Pantry; maybe it’s something that takes all summer. Whatever you decide, challenge yourselves to discuss it, choose it, do it, and record the results by video and/or photos. We would love to know what you come up with!

## GROUP PRAYER

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