

Community Group Homework Sheet



Our weekly homework is meant to help you to go deeper into the passage/topic from Sunday, and to prepare you for the discussion at your Community Group. Please take a few minutes to respond to each of the questions.

Quick Review: John 15:12-16

Looking back at your notes from this Sunday's message, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

My Life:

1. We talk a lot about being motivated by the pursuit of joy at SaviorCC. It's biblical! How far has this taken root in your thinking?
2. How might you apply the concept of being motivated by the pursuit of joy to your relationships with others, especially with those you find it difficult to truly love?

Digging Deeper:

The passages below show us the clarity that existed in the early Church with regard to Christ being our ultimate example of love. Prayerfully read and reflect on each one.

Ephesians 5:1–2 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

1 John 4:8–12 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

1 John 3:16–24 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. 19 By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; 20 for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; 22 and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 24 Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

1. Christ's death was "fragrant offering and sacrifice to God". We recognize that we aren't attempting to pay for sins (ours or anyone else's) when we show love. Still, have you ever

thought of your acts of love as a kind of “fragrant offering” to God? Would might thinking about your acts of love and affection for others as an offering to God inspire you to love more?

2. What does 1 John 4:11 mean? What is the logic behind it?
3. How do we “see” God in our love for one another (1 John 4:12)?
4. What does John equate with laying “down our lies for” our brothers in 1 John 3:16-24? What are some of the examples he gives of what this looks like?
5. What insights, questions, or thoughts do you have about the passages you just read? Share some with the group if you think it will be helpful?

In John 15:15 Jesus says, “No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.” We see a similar concept communicated in Galatians by the Apostle Paul. In this case, we are taken from being slaves to be “sons” (and daughters).

Galatians 4:4–7 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” 7 So you are **no longer a slave**, but **a son**, and if a son, then an **heir through God**.

6. What/Who makes our standing as sons/daughters an experienced reality? (Jesus makes it possible, but who makes it real to us?)

Taking it Home:

1. Looking back at this week’s teaching and study, what’s most important for you to remember and why?