

GROUP GUIDE – FORMED BY THE GOSPEL

SESSION 2:3 | LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Key Scriptures

- John 13:34–35
- John 13:1–17
- Matthew 22:37–40
- Colossians 3:12–14
- Romans 12:9–10
- 1 John 4:7–12

Big Idea

Gospel-formed community loves one another as Jesus has loved us: a costly, serving, patient, truthful, forgiving love that reveals we are His disciples.

Ice Breakers (Choose one)

- What is a small act of love you have never forgotten?
- When people say “love means...,” what definitions do you hear most often in our culture?

Discussion Questions (As time allows)

1. John 13:34–35 — Jesus calls us to love one another “as I have loved you.” What makes His definition of love different from cultural definitions built mainly on acceptance, approval, or avoiding offense?
2. John 13:1–17; 13:34 — Why does Jesus give this command right after washing the disciples’ feet? What does His example show us about love?
3. John 13:34; Romans 5:6–8 — How does Jesus’ sacrificial love shape the way believers are called to love when it becomes costly or inconvenient?
4. John 13:35 — Why would love among believers be the mark by which the world knows we are Jesus’ disciples?
5. Colossians 3:13; Ephesians 4:32 — Where is it hardest to bear with, forgive, and show compassion to one another when love starts to cost us something?
6. Romans 12:10; Philippians 2:3–4 — What does it look like to honor one another above ourselves instead of defining love by our own preferences?

7. Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 4:15 — How can teaching, admonishing, or speaking truth become unloving? How can love become shallow without truth?
8. Galatians 5:13; Galatians 6:2 — What does it mean to serve one another and carry one another's burdens in ordinary church and group life?
9. James 5:16; Romans 15:7 — Why do confession, prayer, and acceptance require courage and humility in a gospel-formed community?
10. John 13:34–35; 1 John 3:16–18 — The manuscript asks, "What does your love for one another reveal?" Where might your love be selective, partial, or shallow, and where is Jesus inviting growth?

Application

Take a moment to reflect: Which "one another" command comes least naturally to you right now? This week, choose one concrete way to love as Jesus has loved you, especially where it costs comfort, pride, time, or control.

Examples

- Serving someone at personal cost instead of waiting to be noticed
- Bearing with or forgiving someone you have been avoiding
- Honoring someone above your preferences in a practical way
- Speaking truth with humility, patience, and grace
- Praying with someone instead of only saying, "I'll pray for you"
- Carrying a burden through practical help, encouragement, or presence

Jesus, teach us to love one another as You have loved us. Make our love patient, costly, truthful, forgiving, and visible so the world can see that we belong to You.

Key Takeaway

Love one another is not a sentimental slogan or self-defined preference. In gospel-formed community, love takes its shape from Jesus Himself: He serves, restores, tells the truth, bears with the weak, forgives, and gives Himself at great cost. As we grow in that kind of love, we show the world we really are His disciples.