

LOVE

The Ultimate Commandment

Opening Ice-Breaker:

"Share Your Heart": Have everyone write down an act of love they've witnessed or experienced recently on a heart-shaped piece of paper. Share these at the start to set a warm, loving atmosphere.

Key Scriptures to Explore:

I Corinthians 13:4-8 - The Love Chapter. Discuss what each characteristic of love means and how we see it (or struggle to see it) in our daily lives.

John 15:12-13 - "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." Discuss the depth of love Jesus talks about and how we can apply this selfless love in our lives.

John 4:7-12 - Love Comes from God. Explore how love is not just a feeling but an action that originates from God's nature.

Ruth 1:16-17 - The story of Ruth and Naomi. Discuss the loyalty and love shown between in-laws and how we can model this in our family relationships.

Song of Solomon 2:16 - "My beloved is mine, and I am his; he browses among the lilies." A discussion on romantic love and how it is viewed within the context of faith.

Activities:

Love Letter to God: Have participants write a personal letter to God, expressing their love and gratitude for His presence in their lives.

Acts of Love Challenge: Encourage your group to perform random acts of kindness or specific acts of love towards others in the week following your study.

Discussion Questions:

How do you see the different types of love (storge, philia, eros, and agape) playing out in your life?

In what ways can we better express love to those who are difficult to love?

How does understanding God's love for us change how we love ourselves and others?

Closing:

End with a prayer circle, focusing on thanking God for His unconditional love and asking for guidance to live out these principles of love in all relationships.