

Share prayer requests with the small group. Ask someone to take notes and share the requests with group members after the meeting.



Sermon Study

How Can I Know: By This We Know What Love Is
1 John 3:16

vision

Eastview
Christian
Church is a
fearless church
of Christ
followers whose
ridiculous love
and dangerous
witness are
irresistible.



*Eastview Christian Church small groups provide the optimal environment for the life change Jesus Christ intends for every person. Our groups typically have 8-14 people who **GATHER** together (Hebrews 10:24-25), **GROW** to be more Christ-like (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 1:14-16), **GIVE** of themselves in various ways (1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:11-16), and **GO** on to impact the world around them (Matthew 28:19).*

Gather (your group getting to know each other)

1. Relate a time you treated another person with love who did not deserve it.

2. How does the world regard people who are generally unkind?

Go
(your group on mission)

One of the biggest lessons we learn from these verses is that we as Christ-followers must be willing to help others when they are in need if we have the resources to do so. Begin to learn to live this out in your world this week!

Grow (your group growing as Christ-followers)

Key Scripture

"By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers." (1 John 3:16, ESV)

Key Word Study

Love (3:16) – agape – "love" in this verse cannot be derived from some intuitive grasp of an idea but is known in the historical event in which Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. His sacrificial death thus distinguishes agape love from all other loves by its costliness, its unconditional acceptance of another, and its accomplishment.

Discussion

1. Have someone begin the discussion time by leading the group in prayer, then read 1 John 3:11-16 aloud.

2. According to John, what is the mark of one who "hates his brother?"

3. Why do you think that love is the mark that shows the outside world we are Christ-followers?

4. Hatred is equivalent to what sin according to vs. 15?

5. In stark contrast to unspeakable hatred is Jesus' remarkable love. He willingly gave His life in sacrifice for us. What should our response be to His love for us?

6. While the necessity of laying down our lives for one another is rare, the necessity of helping meet one another's needs is not! When was the last time you "sacrificed" to meet another person's need?

7. Read Philippians 2:6-11. The death of Christ was more than just an example for us to emulate. It also presents a moral imperative. It involved the greatest possible sacrifice. John says to us in 1 John 3:16, "we ought to lay down our lives" – it's a commandment; an imperative. It's what true Christians must be willing to do. Why is this definition of Christ-like love important for every believer?

8. Read the Word Study above. How is the love of Christ so very different from the other "kinds" of love we might experience?

9. How can you begin to love others more perfectly now that you "know love" according to this verse?

Give
(your group serving each other)

Share practical ways your group might begin to actually sacrifice to serve one another.