

What the World Needs Now – Part 2 – Love

Discussion Questions

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word *love*? Everyone seems to agree that the world needs more love. If that's true, why do you think love can be so difficult to put into practice?
2. Read 1 John 4:7–12. John doesn't simply say that God is loving, but that "God is love." What is the significance of that distinction? How might it change the way we understand God?
3. Read John 13:1–5. Jesus knows that all authority has been given to him, yet he chooses to wash his disciples' feet. What does this reveal about the relationship between love and power?
4. We often associate power with getting people to do what we want. How might our relationships change if we understood power as an opportunity to serve and lift others up rather than control them?
5. Read John 15:11–13. Jesus connects love, sacrifice, and joy. Why do you think these things belong together?
6. "The joy isn't in what we lose, it's in who we love." Have you ever experienced the unexpected joy that comes from sacrificing something for someone else? What made it worthwhile?
7. How do we distinguish between the kind of sacrifice that leads to deeper love and joy and the kind that becomes unhealthy or harmful?

Moving Forward

In 1 John 4, we're told that God's love becomes visible when we love one another. Where do you think people most need to see that kind of love today? What is one relationship or situation in your life where choosing to serve rather than control, or to sacrifice rather than protect your own comfort, might make God's love more visible?