MISSION CREEK
Alliance Church

Love Another: John 13:1,34-35; I Corinthians 13:4-8a

1. **Loving People Who Are Different from Us**

Jesus called his disciples to love one another despite their very different personalities, backgrounds, and perspectives. What makes loving some person difficult, and how might Jesus invite you to respond differently?

2. **Recognizing Our Self-Centred Tendencies**

The sermon described our natural tendency to want everything to revolve around ourselves rather than Jesus. In what situations or relationships do you most notice this tendency in yourself? What would change if you intentionally placed Jesus at the centre?

3. **Living as Recipients of God's Love**

Before Jesus commanded his disciples to love one another, he reminded them that he had first loved them. How has your personal experience of receiving God's unconditional love influenced the way you treat others? What makes it difficult to extend that same grace to someone else?

4. **Being a Community That Reflects Jesus**

Jesus said that people would recognize his disciples by their love for one another. If someone unfamiliar with Christianity observed the relationships within our church, what would they notice? Where are we reflecting Jesus well, and where might we need to grow?

5. **Practicing Patience and Kindness**

The sermon emphasized that patience involves restraining our immediate reactions, while kindness actively seeks opportunities to bless others. Which of these two expressions of love comes more naturally to you?

6. **Letting Go of Wrongs and Grievances**

Paul reminds us that love "keeps no record of wrongs." Over time, even healthy relationships experience disappointments, misunderstandings, and hurts. How do you recognize when you are holding something against another person? What practical steps can help us move toward forgiveness and reconciliation without ignoring genuine hurt?

7. **Turning Love into Everyday Action**

The sermon concluded with a simple five-minute prayer practice: sit in Jesus' presence, receive his love, and ask, "Who can I love today, and how?" What might happen if you practiced this regularly during Advent?

Closing Reflection

Invite each person to complete this sentence:

"One way I sense Jesus inviting me to become more loving is…"

Encourage group members to consider how they might recognize genuine growth in this area by the end of 2027.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you that you loved us first—not because we deserved it, but because of your grace. Help us become people who reflect your love in our relationships. Show us where selfishness, impatience, pride, or unforgiveness have taken root in our hearts. Teach us to love people who are different from us and to demonstrate your love through practical acts of kindness. As we enter Advent, help us receive your love more deeply so that we might share it more freely. May our church be known as a community that truly loves one another. Amen.