

# > LOVE<sup>Q</sup>

- Jesus says that those who belong to him will have **greater love**.

This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:12-13 (NLT)

- **Sacrifice** from us exposes the greater love within us.

...love each other just as much as I love you. Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples. John 13:34-35

#### Important Question:

- Is your love for the lost willing to **sacrifice** for the lost?

#### A Biblical Perspective of Compassion:

**Compassion:** A heart for the **afflicted**.

- God's mission to reach the world requires **compassion** for the world.

For God loved the world so much that he gave his only son so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (TLB)

#### Our Vision is:

To **creatively love** and **lead** people in a **growing relationship** with **Jesus**.

Therefore, go and make disciples ...Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." Mark 1:17 (NIV)

Jesus called the Twelve to him, and sent them out in pairs... Mark 6:7 (MSG)

The Lord now chose seventy other disciples and sent them on ahead in pairs to all the towns and villages he planned to visit later. Luke 10:1 (TLB)

'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' " 'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. Luke 14:21-23 (NIV)

- Every Christ follower has to understand our **position** and our **purpose**.

#### A culture of invitation:

- It's a culture that **inspires** others.

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?" When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do." Matthew 9:9-12 (NLT)

- It's a culture that **shares** with others.

And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— Acts 2:44-46 (NLT)

...And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved. Acts 2:47 (NLT)

- It's a culture of **Faith** that **brings** others along.

Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat. They tried to take him inside to Jesus, but they couldn't reach him because of the crowd. So they went up to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, "Young man, your sins are forgiven." Luke 5:18-20 (NLT)

..Then, turning to the paralyzed man, he commanded, "Pick up your stretcher and go on home, for you are healed!" Luke 5:24 (TLB)

**Few** friends are **true** friends.

And now, through Christ, all the kindness of God has been poured out upon us undeserving sinners; and now he is sending us out around the world to tell all people everywhere the great things God has done for them, so that they, too, will believe and obey him. Romans 1:5 (TLB)

#### Greater love is a culture:

- Willing to **care**.
- Willing to **sacrifice** for others.
- Willing to have **faith** for their spiritual needs. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, "Young man, your sins are forgiven." Luke 5:20 (NLT)
- Willing to **bring** others with you.

A church that never stops **going** is a church that never stops **growing**.

...And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved. Acts 2:47 (NLT)

#### Application:

- Share your **love**.
- Share your **life**.
- Share your **story**.

So we have been greatly encouraged in the midst of our troubles and suffering, dear brothers and sisters, because you have remained strong in your faith. It gives us new life to know that you are standing firm in the Lord. How we thank God for you! Because of you we have great joy as we enter God's presence. 1 Thessalonians 3:7-9 (NLT)



## TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

#### Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Why do we need a heart for the afflicted?
- Can you say the vision from memory yet? What does our vision say to you?
- Read Luke 14:21-23; What is Jesus saying? What is He asking us to do? What does "compel" mean to you?
- Do you think that Jesus' approach to friendship evangelism was a passive approach? explain. Should our approach be passive?
- How motivated are you to reach the lost?
- Are you a part of the culture of invitation? (Inspiring others to come and see, starting a conversation with others, bringing others along)
- Which of the three examples given for "A culture of Invitation" speaks most to you? Explain.
- What does "Bringing others along" mean to you?
- Are you inviting others, starting the conversation and allowing others to see Jesus in you?

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Today's Talk..



### Relational Evangelism

Sunday, February 19th, 2023

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