

# Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of April 28, 2019

## Do You Love Me?

Pastor Johnson 8:15, 9:30am Pastor Conway 10:55

### Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Anything to share about personal events in the past week? About follow-ups from last Sunday's meeting on "Can I Get A Witness?"
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- Opener Question: The word love is used to mean many things in American culture today. How do you believe love is defined or used differently in the Christian faith?

### Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, John 21:15-19. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

**<sup>15</sup> When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"**

**"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."**

**Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."**

**<sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"**

**He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."**

**Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."**

**<sup>17</sup> The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"**

**Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?"**

**He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."**

**Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup> Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." <sup>19</sup> Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"**

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- The preceding verses describe the setting of a group of disciples fishing on the Sea of Galilee in which the risen Christ assists them in a great catch of fish and invites them to share breakfast with

Him on the shore. Peter had already seen the risen Christ twice with the disciples at that time. Why do you think Peter returned to fishing right then?

- What do you think “these” refers to in verse 15?
- Jesus asks Peter the question “Do You Love me?” three times. In the first two questions, Jesus uses the word “agape” or unconditional, self-sacrificing divine love, and Peter responds with “phileo” or the love between brothers and sisters or very good friends. What do you think is going on here in this dialogue with word substitutions?
- At this point in Peter’s life, how had Jesus defined love or taught him what love looked like?
- Why do you believe Jesus asked Peter this question about love three times?
- How is saying that you love Jesus similar to saying “Jesus is Lord?”

### **Other Related Scriptures (10 min)**

- Would a volunteer please read out loud John 14:15-24.
- According to these words of Jesus, what are the expectations of Jesus for those who say that they love him?
- In light of these verses, do you agree with Pastor Dan that loving Jesus adds another category to the five “love languages” of giving gifts, words of affirmation, acts of service, physical touch and quality time?<sup>1</sup> How so?
- How might this prior teaching have made Peter slow to say yes to the Agape questions without qualification?
- What does Jesus’ choice to continue asking the question and assigning tasks in the body of Christ to Peter tell us about how Jesus deals with the failures of his followers?

### **Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)**

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the additional reading above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- How have you responded to Jesus’ invitation to be in a relationship of love with Him in the past?
- Has your understanding of the love of Christ changed in recent years? How so?
- How have you experienced the grace of Jesus Christ gently nudging you forward in your walk with Him at times when you have not felt particularly qualified or worthy?
- What particular roles in the church have you discerned Jesus to be guiding you into?

### **Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)**

- The scriptures this week reveals to us Jesus’ deep love and concern for the well-being of His “sheep.” How has Christ been presenting opportunities for us to help care for His “sheep” within the fold?
- How about those outside of the fold?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Five Love Languages*, Gary Chapman