

# Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of May 19, 2019

## Show Me!

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

### 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 "A Love That Does Not Let Go?"
- 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: Did you ever have "show and tell" at school when you were to bring in an object and talk to the class about it? What are some examples of loving actions that show to others what the love of God is like?

### Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture, 1 John 3:11-18. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

**<sup>11</sup> For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. <sup>12</sup> Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. <sup>13</sup> Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. <sup>14</sup> We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death.**

**<sup>15</sup> Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. <sup>16</sup> This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.**

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- How does John 3:16 and 1 John 3:16 comprise two halves of the gospel message?

- In these verses John describes love both by what it is not (see Cain) and what it is (see Jesus). What do we learn from these examples about how “God is calling us to a higher way of living and a deeper way of loving?” (Pastor Michelle)
- Many times we refer to an assurance of our salvation as coming from praying a particular prayer or the inward witness of the Spirit (Rom 8:16). What sign does John point us to as a sign of eternal life (verses 14-16)?
- Is this a sign to use in reference to ourselves or to others?
- What is a believer to do who feels inner anger leading them down a path of hate?
- The presence of or quality of love can be a subjective matter to address. How do verses 17-18 bring objectivity and tangibility to addressing this topic?

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

- Would a volunteer please read out loud the “Sower’s Creed” on page 3?
- Are there parts of the sower’s creed that move you toward more actively and intentionally seeking loving acts toward others? If so, which parts?
- How do you see both halves of the gospel present in the Sower’s Creed?
- Why is it important for us to love others as Jesus has loved us?
- Have you ever thought of yourself as good news for somebody else because Jesus is in you? Why or why not?
- Where do you see the Holy Spirit sowing seeds of awakening in the world today?

### **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?
- Pastor Dan mentioned that our loving others requires our awareness of two things; 1- of the present needs of the person and 2- of how we could offer a helpful response to the need in a way that honors the Lord. In your experience, what often interferes with your awareness of these two areas with people around you?
- In dealing with difficult people or situations that make us angry this week, how can we choose the way of Jesus and of love, not allowing our inner thought life to escalate toward hate?
- How do you respond to Pastor Michelle’s question “How will people know that our love for Christ moved us beyond just attending church?”
- Have you experienced signs of the Holy Spirit’s prompting to bless a person or group in a particular way? If so, what was it like?

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

- Pastor Dan’s thought that occurred too late was to ask the woman at the coffee shop who had forgotten her wallet, “Excuse me, would you let the Lord bless you and me by allowing me to buy you your coffee drink today?” Could having a similar question in mind this week help you be ready for an opportunity to extend Christian love toward a stranger in an appropriate way?
- What could it be?
- 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.

**The Sower's Creed, by seedbed.com**

**"Today, I sow for a great awakening.**

**Today, I stake everything on the promise of the Word of God. I depend entirely on the power of the Holy Spirit. I have the same mind in me that was in Christ Jesus. Because Jesus is good news and Jesus is in me, I am good news.**

**Today, I will sow the extravagance of the gospel everywhere I go and into everyone I meet.**

**Today, I will love others as Jesus has loved me.**

**Today, I will remember that the tiniest of seeds become the tallest trees; that the seeds of today become the shade of tomorrow; that the faith of right now becomes the future of the everlasting kingdom.**

**Today, I sow for a great awakening."**