

# “A New Love”

New #2

## INTRODUCTION

If you look around in the stores at this time of year you'll notice lots of symbols of love. But despite the candy hearts and romantic dinners, the love the world has to offer pales in comparison to the “New Love” that God offers us. Not only is God's love available to us, it flows through us to others. And Jesus in fact commands that we love one another. In this study we look at the characteristics and the source of that New Love.

### Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

What would you consider to be the perfect Valentine's Day gift?

## STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

### Love serves

#### Q1. Read John 13:1-5, 12-15

The love Jesus demonstrated, and commands us to express, is selfless. John 13:1-5 tells us Jesus washed the disciples' feet when he knew He was about to depart. What is one thing you would want to do, for those you love the most, if you knew you were going to die tomorrow? What are some things about Jesus washing the disciples feet that made it an important symbol of selfless love? What are some practical ways you can express that same love to others?

### Love blesses

#### Q2. Read Matthew 5:44; Numbers 6:22-27

In scripture, blessing is often paired with cursing (Matthew 5:44). Both reflect our attitudes and intentions toward others. Cursing means to pray against or wish evil upon someone, but to bless is to pray God would cause them to prosper. Using Aaron's prayer in Numbers 6:22-27, find a prayer partner in your group, then slowly and sincerely, pray that blessing over one another.

### Love dies

#### Q3. Read Philippians 2:5-8, John 15:12-14

Most of us will probably not be called on to give our physical life and die for another person, but there are ways we can “die to ourselves” through service. We sacrifice some of what we have or what we want in order to help others. What are some of the ways you could practice the principle of “love dies” by

giving up some of your personal desires for others? Who are the people God brings to mind to whom you could direct that service?

## Source of new love

### Q4 Read 1 John 4:7-8, Galatians 5:22-23, John 15:9-12

At this point you may realize that you do not naturally possess the ability to love as Jesus commanded us. Thankfully, God has made that love available to us. In each of the above passages, which person of the trinity is the source of that love?

### Q5 Read John 15:1-11

Think about a grape vine. What is the relationship between the vine, the branch, and the fruit? How is the branch involved in “fruit production”? Now think about your relationship to Jesus. If he is the vine, you are the branch, and love is the fruit, how is this new love produced through your life? What practices can you develop to connect to and depend on the vine more effectively?

## WRAP-UP

One of the changes we experience when we become Christians is a New Love that is unlike the love the world has to offer. This is a love that is manifest in selfless acts of service, an attitude of blessing toward others (even our enemies), and the willingness to sacrifice our lives for others. The source of this incredible love is God himself. When we remain connected to and dependent on Him, that love can flow through us and be spread throughout the world.

## Memory Verse

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.*

*-John 13:34 ESV*

## PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for your group members' needs: (see back for more space) \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

### Challenge:

Can you name any people in your sphere of influence with whom you might have an adversarial relationship? Ask God to show you people he can use you to bless even those who seem “unblessable.”

Read John 13:1-5, 12-15 in your Bible

**Q2**

Matthew 5:44 NKJV - 44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

Numbers 6:22-27 ESV - 22 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 23 "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, 24 The LORD bless you and keep you; 25 the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; 26 the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. 27 "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

### Q3

Philippians 2:5-8 ESV - 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

John 15:12-14 ESV - 12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you.

**Q 4**

1 John 4:7-8 ESV - 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Galatians 5:22-23 ESV - 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

John 15:9-12 ESV - 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and

that your joy may be full. 12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

**Q5**

Read John 15:1-11 in your Bible

Prayer requests can't \_\_\_\_\_

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.