

# THE DIFFICULT PEOPLE

Lifegroups | Week 10 | FALL 2018

## ICEBREAKER

Since this is the last week of the Lifegroup season, go around the group and ask each member what was the highlight of this season and what they are expecting for the New Year.

## OPEN IN PRAYER AND PLAY VIDEO

### MESSAGE SUMMARY

It is human nature to be nice to those who are nice to us. It's spiritual nature to be nice who are deliberately mean to us. The most difficult people demand the highest level of love. When we realize the agape love of God we begin to love without fear and without expectation. We stand in the confidence of God's love in every aspect of our lives.

### SCRIPTURE *(do not read until prompted in the discussion questions)*

Luke 6:27-36 | 1 John 4:18 | 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Read Luke 6:27-36. Jesus came down from heaven to earth to know and connect with his people. He knew that everyone will have at least one enemy in their lives and will have difficulty dealing with them. But Jesus didn't want us to live in human nature he wanted us to walk in spiritual nature. We are to pray and love those who don't love us especially those who spitefully use us.  
***Has there been someone who hurt you deliberately? Take account of your heart, are you walking in human nature or spiritual nature with them?***
- There are many different types of love: Phileo – a friend love; Sturkeo – a family love; Eros – an erotic love; and Agape – a perfect love without expectation or exchange. Every type of love except for agape has fear that you will only be loved if you perform or look right. 1 John 4:18 says, *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But*

*he who fears has not been made perfect in love.* As we walk in agape love, fear is casted out and we are able to love our enemies. Agape love has the ability to ignore transgressions and walk on a level that is not human nature.

***What does agape love look like on a daily basis? What are some ways you can grow your love for each person to agape love?***

- Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. While reading through the scripture you will find that love is not a feeling. Love is a daily choice and commitment. Feelings are a chemical reaction that comes and goes every single day. It is easy to get a new feeling and lose a feeling. That's why we shouldn't make life-altering decisions based on feelings. But what happens when you're already in a commitment and the feeling goes away? You stay with the commitment you made until the feelings come back. ***Have you ever made a life-altering decision based on a feeling? How did you deal with it once that feeling went away?(ex. Got into a relationship too quickly)***

- Those who cannot walk in love have not perfected their process with God. The way you have reached the place of perfection with God is when others do wrong to you, but you don't want to harm them back. People can try to hurt you but that hurt won't poison your character. It won't make you angry, bitter or resentful. God wants us to take the feelings off our shoulders and love even if people don't reciprocate it. ***Have you ever allowed hurt to poison your character? How can you turn that poison into agape love?***

## CONCLUSION

Even though there are many kinds of love, God wants us to show his love to all people. Not just those who are nice to us because even sinners do that. God calls us to step up and love those that we feel don't deserve it, the difficult people; the ones who will go out of their way to hurt us. We love not because we feel it; we love because he calls us to rise above.

## OUR CHALLENGE

This week recognize the challenge and power behind agape love. Check your heart and see if you have room to share agape love with those that don't love you back.

Jesus loved you at your worst; can you love others at theirs?