

Week 9--November 15

How do people know I am a disciple?

Focus

Self-giving love (like what is demonstrated in the cross) is the main identifying trait of a follower of Jesus. This kind of love is so unique in the world that unbelievers take notice when it is shared.

Scripture Reading-- John 13:33–35

³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Questions for the Journey

- Jesus says these words just before he goes to the cross. How has Jesus loved you? According to verse 34, knowing how Jesus has shown love to you teaches you how to love others. What do you learn from how Jesus loves you?
- How does God's act of self-giving love on the cross move you? Are you inspired by it? If so, what are you inspired for?
- Spend some time thinking of as many examples of self-giving love you have witnessed over your life. How did you feel when you witnessed these acts of love?
- When was the last time someone showed you a self-giving act of love? Even a small act can be significant and can be a way you experience God's love through others.

Action Steps

- Make a list by name of the people in each sphere of your life such as neighbors, dorm-mates, colleagues, church brothers and sisters, family members, etc.
- Does each person on the list know you are a Christian? If not, no need to announce it. They'll discover it on their own because of your love for people.
- Pray over the list and pick one to three people you intend to show self-giving love to. Then, make a choice about what you will do and when. Look for the opportunity with them. When you have completed whatever act of love you have chosen, share how it went with someone in our church.

We used portions of *Discipleship Essentials* by Greg Ogden in this resource. For an even deeper exploration of your journey as a follower of Jesus, check out Chapter 17.