

These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read **John 13:34-35**

Love defines Jesus and love must define us. In John 13:34-35, Jesus gives a new command to love. That word “command” would have resonated to the people Jesus was speaking to. *Command* means, we **MUST** do it. We *must* love others. And we must love them the way Jesus loves us. This kind of love is looking after the interests of Jesus in others. Loving well reveals the Kingdom. We can only love well when we accept that we are well loved—right now—even in our challenges and our brokenness. The love of Jesus radically changes lives and gives us a new experience of having, living, and giving love. The church ought to be a radical community of this kind of love. The bottom line? God’s love for us in Jesus is all the time, even when we don’t understand what is going on. Because we can trust in this love, in good times and in bad, we can know we are well loved and the only thing that can flow out of being well loved is that we can love others well.

Pray

Jesus, show me how to love like you. Let the Holy Spirit fill me with your love; the unconditional, life-changing love that you so freely give. And then let me pour that love into the people in my life...my family, my neighbors, my work, my community, and my church. Let our church become a place of radical life-changing love.

Getting Started

- What is your definition of love? Has it changed over time?
- How do you generally show love to those around you?

Digging Deeper

1. Read John 13:34-35. What does Jesus mean when he says, “... as I have loved you...”? How does Jesus love us?
2. Why do you think Jesus gave this new command to love?
3. Loving well stems from being well loved. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
4. Recall the story of Percy the Hedgehog’s eye infection. Why do we think that God doesn’t love us if we are going through something hard? Does he still love us when we go through challenges? How do we know?
5. What does love have to do with the mission of Severn Run? How can our church be radical in this new command to love?
6. Does love help us experience the kingdom? How?
7. If love is looking after the interests of others, how will you love others differently this week?

Living Jesus

The love of Jesus radically changes lives. It gives us a new experience of knowing, having, and living love. We must allow ourselves to be well-loved by Jesus before we can love others well. Let us live loved right now; accept that God is loving you well right now, and allow that love to radically change how you view the world.

Your Story

How has the love of Jesus radically changed your life? What will you do differently, starting today, to show this radical love to the people around you?