



OVERFLOW - WEEK 8

1 JOHN 3:16-18

WELCOME TO LIFE GROUP

This Fall, we are focusing on our values of Experiencing God and Loving Others through our sermon series, OVERFLOW.

This week, we looked at “the other John 3:16” - **1 John 3:16!** Drew walked us through John’s instructions about loving others, helping us see...

- The Principle - If we know the love of God in Christ, we *should* also lay down our lives for others...
- The Question - If you do not act in love, how does God’s love reside in you?...
- The Challenge - True love consists of more than word and speech - it consists of action and truth.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Our discipleship to Jesus is meant to be a holistic way of living, involving our whole selves - **head, heart, and hands**. While each person will likely gravitate to one of these over the others, it's important we all consider how God's love affects our minds, our hearts, and our actions.



What idea from the sermon stuck out to you most this week?



What questions do you have that were either raised or left unanswered by the sermon?



Tell about a time that someone demonstrated their love for you in action by laying down their life for you.

Have you ever had the experience that someone's words of love didn't match their works? If so, would you be willing to share about that experience?



Note: This question might be a great time to pause, pray for one another, and affirm that our Heavenly Father does not love in words only, but in action and in truth. Speak the truth of God's love into places where people have failed us or fallen short in the past.



What does "laying down your life" for others mean to you? How do you know when you're doing it? How can you tell when you're no?

in 1 John 3:17, John outlines that love that works consists of 3 elements: Opportunity, Means, and Compassion.

Consider Jesus' example when he feeds the crowds in Mark 6:30-44. How does Jesus' love for those around him shape your heart to love those around you?



Who do you have the opportunity and means to love that God is inviting you to act with compassion toward right now?



Take a moment to clearly identify the opportunity God has given you, the means he's provided, and the compassionate act you can take this week to love that person.

Are there any opportunities you know about - in our group, our church, or our community - that we can clearly identify and make a plan to love with works together?

RESPONSE

How have you seen God working through the love of his people this fall? Share those stories with one another and celebrate God's love at work in our church!

If you want, you can also share these stories of God's love with the pastors by [CLICKING HERE!](#) We'd love to hear what the Holy Spirit is doing and celebrate with you.

CLOSING PRAYER

Prayer is a great way to practice what we've been talking about. As we pray for one another, we lay down our lives to bring someone else's life before the Lord.

Take some extended time to pray for one another as a group. This might include praying for God to intercede on someone's behalf in a situation that needs it; praying for a person to know God's love; praying for boldness to act in love when we have opportunities; pausing to give encouragement to one another; or simply inviting God's movement in someone's life ("Come Holy Spirit").

1 JOHN 3:16-18

¹⁶ This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has this world's goods and sees a fellow believer in need but withholds compassion from him — how does God's love reside in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth.