

THE JESUS WAY: Love Works!

Scripture used: [Matthew 22:37–39 \(NIV\)](#); [Matthew 28:18–20 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

As NBCC prepares for a significant new season through the Jesus Way campaign, this message centers on a simple but transformative truth: love works. Coming out of Easter, we are reminded that the resurrection is not only a historical event. It is the ultimate demonstration that sacrificial, redemptive love is the most powerful force in the universe. Jesus calls us into a way of life shaped by this love. It is not sentimental or easy. It is *agape* love: costly, unconditional, and sacrificial. This is the love that sent Jesus to the cross and turned a symbol of death into a symbol of victory. It is also the love He commands us to practice, even toward those who have hurt us most. The Jesus Way is about forming this kind of love in us, both personally and together as a community. It requires more than inward spiritual growth; it calls us to engage others—especially across differences—with courage and grace. This is how we live out the Great Commission and reflect the heart of Jesus in a divided world.

KEY POINTS

1. **Love is the greatest power.** God is love, and everything He does flows from that identity. Through Jesus, we see love in action: absorbing sin, overcoming death, and inviting us into relationship with the Creator of the universe. When Jesus was asked about the greatest commandment, He pointed to love. Love is not optional; it is required.
2. **Agape love is costly, sacrificial, and transformative.** Biblical love is not based on feelings. It gives without expecting in return. It chooses forgiveness, even when it is undeserved. Jesus didn't just teach this: He lived it! He commanded us to love our enemies showing that love has the power to redeem the most broken relationships.
3. **Loving others—especially our enemies—is the work of the Jesus Way.** Love is not easy. It requires effort, humility, and time. Often, our “enemies” are those closest to our deepest pain. Yet these are the very people Jesus calls us to love. In a diverse church like NBCC, this means building bridges across disagreements and experiences. We will not agree on everything, but we are called to prioritize Jesus and follow His example.
4. **The Jesus Way gives us practical ways to live out love.** We are not left without guidance. The Jesus Way includes interpersonal practices such as engaging one another's stories, showing kindness, practicing radical empathy, rejecting labels, living with integrity, extending forgiveness, and giving generously. These practices align with the Great Commission and help us embody the love of Christ in everyday life.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Love is not just something Jesus taught. It is the way He lived. Who in your life feels difficult to love right now? What would it look like to apply *agape* love in that relationship?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Read [Matthew 22:37–39 \(NIV\)](#). Which of those areas (heart, soul, mind) feels most natural to you? Which feels most challenging? Read [Matthew 28:18–20 \(NLT\)](#) When you hear Jesus say “go and make disciples,” what emotions or thoughts come up for you? Where has God placed you right now (work, family, friendships) that could be part of your “mission field”?

- 3) **DO** - Begin to pray for the Jesus Way series and how God might be inviting you to participate. Plan to attend the next week's Gathering and bring a friend or family member to hear about the Jesus Way!