

in your shoes

Week 1: “Those People”

Those people can be the worst. You know who “those people” are, right? We all have them, and they’re difficult to like, much less love. Jesus had “those people,” too, and his approach to “those people” provides insight that may help us as we encounter “those people” in our lives.

Discussion Questions

1. Who are the easiest people for you to be around? What makes your time with them enjoyable?
2. Who are the more difficult people to be around? What makes them more challenging?
3. Read John 13:34–35, where Jesus gave his disciples a new command.
 - What do you think went through the disciples’ minds when they heard this “new command”?
 - How might their understanding of this command changed after Jesus’ death and resurrection in the days that followed?
 - What do you think it means to love others as Jesus has loved you?
4. The prayer Jesus prayed on the cross (Matt. 27:45–46) reveals the anguish he experienced in feeling separated from God—he felt the full pain of being human. How does the empathy he displayed in that moment affect the way you view his sacrifice?
5. For whom might **you** be one of “those people”? What is it that would make it difficult for them to love you?
6. How does understanding your role as one of “those people” affect the way you approach “those people” in your life?

Moving Forward

Loving one another creates a hunger to understand one another, which allows us to better love one another. How can you better understand “those people” in your life? How can you better share their feelings?