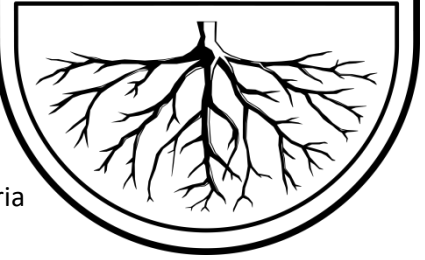




## LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

ROMANS 12:9-13

LIFE GROUPS



**ICE BREAKER:** Finish this sentence: “My family shows me they love me by...”

1. Read Romans 12:9-13. What was your biggest takeaway from Sunday’s sermon?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:6-7 & 1 Peter 1:22. When have you seen the body of South Peoria love one another deeply?
3. When do you find yourself trying to avoid, escape or ignore the task of loving your church family?
4. Do you find yourself being the stingiest with your time, love, or resources? Why?
5. During a time of social distancing, how can you have spiritual fervor and prevent slothfulness in your actions and love towards others?
6. What should you do, if you are serving others but don’t feel a growing love towards them?
7. Who specifically at South Peoria could you say you are devoted to their good? How have you demonstrated that devotion?



## CONTEXT AND CLARIFICATION

**ICE BREAKER:** Every family shows their love differently. Just as every family is unique, so is every church family. Like the old hymns says, no matter how we show it, “They will know we are Christians by our love.”

2. I encourage you to think of how you have seen different members serve other members in love. Standing in hospital rooms, bringing meals, attending funerals, etc. I have been so moved when I have seen members serve other members in humility. Sometimes witnessing Christians serve others can stir in you a deeper love for the family of God (it also reminds us we are not the focus).

5. There are many social implications to the social distancing that we are practicing; yet, there are numerous spiritual repercussions too. For most individuals and families not in a Life Group, there is no accountability. When there is no accountability there is no need to be challenged, corrected or guided. A lack of Christian community can easily lead to slothfulness, not just in action (some of us *are* trapped inside all day) but also in love. We can become lazy in how we love others, especially the body of Christ. We must continue to spur one another on during this time.

6. I have been told before, if you don’t feel love when serving, you should do it anyway (sounds like a contradiction to 1 Corinthians 13). I have also been told by Christians, if you’re not doing things with the right heart, don’t do it at all (so I should base what I do off of feelings? But the heart is deceitful!). This type of black and white thinking can be dangerous. All or nothing thinking can hinder your relationship with the Lord and with others. Instead, let us take our requests to the Lord. If we are serving and find that our love is not growing, then the issue usually lies within our *own* hearts. We must be quick to repent and confess. As believers we should pray and ask God, that by His grace, we may love more and more.



## FURTHER STUDY

### **1 Peter 1:22 (NIV)**

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.

### **Philippians 1:8 (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

### **2 Corinthians 6:11-13 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. <sup>12</sup> We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. <sup>13</sup> As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also.

### **1 John 4:7-11 (NIV)**

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup> Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. <sup>10</sup> And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more

### **Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV)**

<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

### **Psalms 101:4 (NIV)**

<sup>4</sup> The perverse of heart shall be far from me; I will have nothing to do with what is evil.

### **John 13:34-35 (NIV)**

<sup>34</sup> "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

### **1 Corinthians 13:6-7 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

### **Galatians 6:10 (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

*"Genuine Christian love, Paul is suggesting, is not a directionless emotion or something that can be only felt and not expressed. Love is not genuine when it leads a person to do something evil or to avoid doing what is right—as defined by God in His word. Genuine love, 'the real thing,' will lead the Christian to that 'good' which is the result of the transformed heart and mind."* —Douglas J. Moo

