



A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: John 13:31-38

Message for the Week: Fruit of the Spirit - LOVE

Sunday, September 29

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

Share a story about when someone loved you even when you were not that lovable.

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [John 13:31-38](#) out loud.

[Clicking the link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

If you were going to see someone who is about to die, what would you say to them? How would their imminent death impact or inform what you might say to them?

Why is Jesus' command in verse 34 "new"?

Why is the command to love one another so important?

Where does the command to "Love one another" rank in your heart and life?

Jesus puts a condition on love in these verses. Jesus says "...love one another AS I have loved you." How did/does Jesus love you? What does this mean for our love?

Jesus said, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." If people watched you for a day, what would they know about you?

Take Away:

What is a main point or key message that you learned, understood, observed, or experienced that you are taking away with you from your group's reflections on the bible passage or your group's conversations today?

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Who in your group needs prayer today? Who in your group will you pray for?

Pray this prayer together:

Father, if I have not loved my fellow brothers and sisters, please forgive me. Holy Spirit, please transform my heart to see how to love those who are around me with the love Christ. Change my heart to love as Jesus Christ loves. AMEN

"Try It" - Putting our Faith into Action:

Show love to everyone you encounter this week, both those who are easy to love, and those who are hard to love.

Galatians 5:22-26

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

John 13:31-38

New International Version

¹³ ³¹ When he (Judas) was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him,^[a] God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. ³³ “My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. ³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” ³⁶ Simon Peter asked him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus replied, “Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.” ³⁷ Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” ³⁸ Then Jesus answered, “Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [John 13:32](#) Many early manuscripts do not have *If God is glorified in him*.

The Message

¹³ ³¹ When he (Judas) had left, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is seen for who he is, and God seen for who he is in him. The moment God is seen in him, God’s glory will be on display. In glorifying him, he himself is glorified—glory all around! ³³ “Children, I am with you for only a short time longer. You are going to look high and low for me. But just as I told the Jews, I’m telling you: ‘Where I go, you are not able to come.’ ³⁴⁻³⁵ “Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other.” ³⁶ Simon Peter asked, “Master, just where are you going?” Jesus answered, “You can’t now follow me where I’m going. You will follow later.” ³⁷ “Master,” said Peter, “why can’t I follow now? I’ll lay down my life for you!” ³⁸ “Really? You’ll lay down your life for me? The truth is that before the rooster crows, you’ll deny me three times.”

[Read full chapter](#)