

WEEK 4

SMALL GROUP GUIDE



“Family” is a concept understood all over the world, in every country, culture, and language, but no two families are the same. We all have our unique family structures, quirks, traditions, values, problems, and dysfunctions. It’s not always easy to love our families (or even like them sometimes), but the Bible is full of guidance on how to love each other well — we just have to be willing to apply that at home. In this 4-week series, we’ll take a look at some of the lessons learned by Jesus-followers in the early days of the church, because learning how to be part of God’s family might help us learn how to be part of our own families. In God’s family, **we support each other, pray for each other, reconcile with each other, and love each other.**

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

In God’s family we love each other.

THE BIBLE

I John 3:16-18, 4:7–12; John 15:9–17;
I Corinthians 13:4-7

- **What’s something you really love right now?**
- **What are some ways people make you feel loved with their words? What about with their actions?**
- **When you love someone, what are some of the things you usually do to let them know? Do you think that usually gets the message across?**
- **How does God use words to let us know we’re loved? How do God’s actions let us know we’re loved?**
- **What do you think — if you feel love for someone, is it always true that you love them? Why or why not?**
- **Why do you think the Bible puts such a big emphasis on our actions toward other people and not just our beliefs about God?**
- **What are some specific ways we can “lay down our lives” for the people in our families?**
- **Read I Corinthians 13:4-7. Which of these qualities do you most struggle with at home? How could that quality help you better love your family?**
- **When we’re struggling to love our families, what do you think God would want us to do? What do you think God wants to do for us?**
- **This week, who is someone you’re going to love like God loves you? How will you do that?**