



## **SBSG – Live It: Love**

### **The Purpose of a Sermon Based Small Group (to be read at the beginning of each gathering)**

The purpose of our small group is to actively pursue Christ through grace filled relationships.

### **READ ALOUD BY ALL (allow this prayer to shape your time together)**

**Dear God, help me in this dialogue to be humble & suspend judgment. I recognize that we are all created in your image. Give me courage to stay curious about each other by asking questions. Thank you, God, for this opportunity to meet together and in so doing grow closer to you. AMEN**

### **Sermon Title: Live It: Love**

**Opening question:** Who in your life is difficult to love and what makes it so difficult?

**Sermon Series Synopsis:** Faith isn't just something we believe—it's something we live. In this sermon series called, "**Live It,**" we will explore what it means to put our faith into action in our daily lives. Jesus calls us not just to hear His words but to live them out with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

### **Bible Reading**

Reading the Bible is about reading for practice and spiritual formation – spiritual formation, in which the reader seeks to be formed by the Spirit of God.

### **\*Read each passage separately and discuss:**

**Galatians 5:22-23 (CEB),** <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this

**John 5:35 (CEB),** <sup>35</sup> This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other.

**Matthew 5:46-48 (CEB),** <sup>46</sup> If you love only those who love you, what reward do you have? Don't even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing? Don't even the Gentiles do the same? <sup>48</sup> Therefore, just as your heavenly Father is complete in showing love to everyone, so also you must be complete.

**Romans 12:3-4, 16 (CEB),** <sup>3</sup> Because of the grace that God gave me, I can say to each one of you: don't think of yourself more highly than you ought to think. Instead, be reasonable since God has measured out a portion of faith to each one of you. <sup>4</sup> We have many parts in one body, but the parts don't all have the same function.

<sup>16</sup> Consider everyone as equal, and don't think that you're better than anyone else. Instead, associate with people who have no status. Don't think that you're so smart.

**Matthew 5:41-45 (CEB),** <sup>41</sup> When they force you to go one mile, go with them two. <sup>42</sup> Give to those who ask, and don't refuse those who wish to borrow from you.

<sup>43</sup> "You have heard that it was said, *You must love your neighbor* and hate your enemy. <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who harass you <sup>45</sup> so that you will be acting as children of your Father who is in heaven. He makes the sun rise on both the evil and the good and sends rain on both the righteous and the unrighteous.

**After discussion, which passage stood out to you the most and why?**

### **Reflection questions:**

**What stands in the way of you loving others as these passages suggest?**

**What is one thing you can do this week to show love to someone in your life who is difficult for you to love?**

### **Personal Prayer Request**

Share a one or two sentence prayer request with the Small Group for this next week. Remember these prayer requests are about **your life**, not someone else's.

### **(Sample Prayer)**

God, we thank you for your presence with us. We lift up these requests to you knowing that you care deeply about us...we pray for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and (fill in prayer requests) ... God we know that you have heard our request, and we release all outcomes to you and your glory. It's in your Son's name Jesus that we pray...**AMEN.**