



## Key References:

### John 13:34–35 (ESV)

<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

### Colossians 3:12–13 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup>Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

### John 17:22–23 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup>The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, <sup>23</sup>I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

### Philippians 2:3–4 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves’, <sup>4</sup>not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

### John 15:9–14 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. <sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

## 1 – A CHANGING CULTURE

In North America reports suggest that rates of loneliness have doubled since the 1980s. **Why do you think this is happening? What are the effects of loneliness?**

We also know that individualism is on the rise. **How do you think this has crept into Christianity and affected how we practice our faith?**

## 2 – AS I HAVE LOVED YOU

Jesus sets the standard of how we are to love one another in John 13:34-35. **What are some good examples of “love one another: just as I have loved you” that should challenge us?**

**Why does Jesus make a connection between the love that Christians have towards each other and people realizing who Jesus really is? Have you ever seen someone come to faith in this way?**

Read John 17:22-23. **How is Jesus calling us to be united together like he and The Father are one? Is this obtainable?**

**Do you think the love we have for one another is currently at the level where Jesus wants it to be? Is this your duty to fix or someone else’s?**

Read Philippians 2:3-4. **What stands out to you from this verse? How can you practically value others above yourself?**

**Why are the instructions in Colossians 3:12-13 important for us if we are to keep ourselves united in family? What makes this most difficult in a community?**

Read Romans 12:5. The NIV translation says that “each member belongs to all the others”. **To what level should we belong to one another?**

## 3 – THE ONLY WAY THIS COMMUNITY IS POSSIBLE

We know that only in our own strength this level of community is not possible. **Read John 15:1-4 & 9-14 and explain the connection between abiding and our love for one another.**

**How can we increase the amount that we are abiding in Jesus?**