

## NEW week two

\*\*These questions are for your growth and to prepare for the conversation in your Growth Group. We encourage you to read through them, spend some time thinking about your responses and write down anything that could aid in your Group. We also encourage you dig deeper, research, look for supporting Scriptures, etc. We are excited for your growth relationally and spiritual. **We recommend the Bible versions of - ESV, NTL, NIV and The Message.**

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**Series Overview:** NEW. If you've ever thumbed through a Gideon Bible at a hotel, you may have noticed that it's divided into two sections, or testaments, the old and new. The New Testament begins with the story of Jesus, who uses this word "new" a lot. He interprets old, familiar passages of Scripture in revolutionary, new ways and turns the religious community upside down. He spoke of a new covenant, a new commandment, and a new way of living. What do these things mean? And how do they have the potential to change everything?

### //TALK

**Ice Breaker** - If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would you choose and why?

**Q1** – Have you ever resisted a new device, new technology, or a new way of doing something? Why did you resist it? Did you ever come around to trying the new way? What was the outcome of that moment?

**Q2** – Read **John 13:34-35** - [Read in different translations] In your own words, what is being said in this passage? What do you think the reaction was from the average Jewish community that was going to receive something "new"? How do you believe the disciples would have received this commandment to love one another? How could they show this to one another?

**Q3** – Read **Matthew 5:23-24** - [Read in different translations] In your own words, what is being said in this passage? What is the connection between Loving God and Loving Others according to this passage? How deeply connected are they?

**Q4** – The statement was made, "**Love Others like God loves you...which is impossible without Loving God first.**" Would you agree? Why or why not? How can you practically do this?

**Q5** – Read **1 Corinthians 13:4-7** - [Read in different translations] In your own words, what is being said in this passage? If we are to love others with an "agape" or "God-like" love, how can we apply this list to our every day moments? Think of specific situations you could put this into practice and share with the group.

**Q6** – The statement was made, "**The New Commandment of Love is not only unconditional, but it is also sacrificial.**" Do you agree? Why or why not? What does love require us to sacrifice? How can that kind of love impact the world around you?

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### //GO DEEPER

Additional Scriptures to read and discuss: Read 1 John 4:7-10. Take time to think about God's love.

### //THE POINT

**Allow love to speak for your faith.**

### //MEMORIZE

**John 13: 34-35 - 34 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. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."**

### //PRAY

As you share prayer requests, take time to personally make requests known in an honest and safe environment. Encourage everyone to write down requests and to pray during the week. If others are comfortable, allow group members to pray for one another's need. Pray for the next generation and how they will embrace their faith!