



Christmas at The Cove

WEEK FOUR: NO GREATER LOVE – Study Guide

By Josh Miller
December 16, 2012

The word love is used a lot in our English vocabulary. We say things like, "I love ice cream," "I love that car," or "I love you." We all know to what extent our level of "love" reaches for each of these things. When it comes to sacrificial love, there is no greater example than Jesus. Let's take a look at what it means to follow His example when it comes to loving others.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) When you think about where you are at today, would you say that loving others is something you do or do not struggle with? Explain why or why not.

Into the Bible

- 2) **Read John 15:9-17.** Jesus gives us instructions on how to love one another. Where does Jesus say our love comes from? What does Jesus say displays "no greater love"?

CHRISTMAS AT THE COVE

WEEK FOUR: NO GREATER LOVE – STUDY GUIDE

- 8) As we talked about in Question 2, the greatest love a person can show another person is being willing to lay down his own life for that person, just as Jesus did for us. He is our ultimate example. How have you been able to put aside your desires and show love to others and put their needs first?
- 9) Being a recipient of love is how we know what love looks like. For example, as a parent, I show my kids love through my actions. How have you personally experienced Christ's love from other people? Share your story.
- 10) The purpose of the Church is to reach others for Christ. Since we are on the receiving end of His love, we want to share that love. What are some of the ways you have been accomplishing that in your own life or as a Life Group?

A. Answers will vary. It's always good to be reminded to keep loving others by personally sharing God's love and by inviting others to a weekend service, especially since our focus in this study is reaching others for Christ.

Current Prayer Focus

What we're praying for together as a church:

- A building for the Statesville Campus
- The Christmas at The Cove Eternal Giving offering

CHRISTMAS AT THE COVE

WEEK FOUR: NO GREATER LOVE – STUDY GUIDE

Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own

In Greek, there are four words that explain different levels of love: *agape*, *phileo*, *storg*, and *eros*. Check out the following definitions and verses to get a better picture of these types of love.

- 11) The word *agape* is used to describe the highest level of love one could have for someone. **Read John 3:16 and Romans 5:8**. To what length does this type of love go in order to show others how much they are loved?

- 12) The word *phileo* refers to a strong friendship with another person. **Read John 11:3 and John 16:27**. How do these verses help us to better understand the kind of relationship Jesus had with others and the relationship He wants to have with us?

- 13) The word *Storg* is used to describe love within a family. This word and the word *phileo* have the exact same meaning; with the exception that *Storg* is directed specifically towards family relationships. **Read Romans 12:10**. What kind of word picture is Paul trying to give from this verse?

- 14) The word *eros* means that you have a strong physical attraction to someone. While the literal term is never used in the Bible, the Song of Solomon does give us a glimpse and image of *eros* through the physical attraction between a husband and a wife. There is no specific assignment or answer for this question. The best way to understand the word *eros* would be to read the Song of Solomon.