



Love. Live. Lead.

The Only Thing

Discussion Questions:

1) This weekend, we continued our study on the mission of our church. We closely examined some of the ways that Jesus loved, lived, and led. For Jesus, love is central and essential. **John 13:34 (ESV) 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 love for one another.** This verse contains three separate and distinct ideas. Please take a moment to identify all three and discuss their implications as a group.

2) Loving God and others is central to Jesus' teaching. Sometimes, we think of love as soft, an acquiescing to others' desires and whims. For Jesus, however, love was never a compromise. It often contained a challenge to rise up and become more. This is clearly seen in the story of the rich young man who asks Jesus how to have eternal life. After assuring Jesus that he had followed the law all his life, Jesus responded with challenging using the concept of love. **Mark 10:21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," He said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me."** Do you find the love of Jesus challenging you to grow and become more like Him?

Tell the story of a time when someone loved you but challenged you to grow and improve. How might you begin to love with *challenging love*?

3) Living like Jesus is vital. I'll remind you of what John said in **1 John 2:6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.** What are your thoughts on this verse? What is one way you feel that you are currently living as Jesus did?

What is one way you would/could like to become more like Jesus?

4) One way we observe how Jesus lived, was by maintaining His connection to God. **Mark 1:35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed. Luke 5:16 But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.** How important is it to maintain your connection to God through prayer as you go throughout your day? Is this one of your goals?

5) Leaders are often held captive to the complaints and opinions of those they are trying to lead. Not Jesus: His only concern was pleasing God. **John 12:42-43 Yet at the same time, many, even among the leaders, believed in Him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved human praise more than praise from God.** What are your thoughts and observations about the leaders of Jesus' day who loved praise from men more than praise from God?

It is very normal to desire the approval of others. It does become a problem, though, when it stops us from being ourselves and seeking to please God. Discuss with your group your personal journey with seeking approval and the strength of your desire to please God more than the people in your life.