

2. John reminds us in his other writings that we are people who live with a lifestyle of agape love. Read 1 John 3:16-18 & 1 John 4:7-12.
 - How does John describe agape love?
 - In light of these passages, how we can you and I tangibly love others well?
3. A specific way to demonstrate agape love is through the practice of Hospitality. Read 1 Peter 4:8-10 & Luke 14:12-14, Hebrews 13:1-2.
 - How does hospitality accomplish the mission of Jesus?
 - What parts of hospitality are personally challenging for you?
 - In what ways can hospitality refocus your perspective and heart?

WITH PRACTICE:

Jesus defines for us a new way to live in community and on mission. We are people who love. And we are people who demonstrate this love through genuine hospitality. This week we have opportunity to tangibly practice the commandment that he gave us.

- How can you display hospitality this week?
- Take a few minutes and prayerfully complete the following statement:
- I will demonstrate agape-style hospitality this week by:

For Further Reflection . . .

Watch the [Bible Project Video on Agape Love](#)

For more understanding about “agape” love, consider doing a word study through the New Testament. Ask yourself these questions:

- What sets agape love apart from other kinds of love?
- How can I express and live out agape type love with those around me?



WEEK #4

We Love



Leader's Corner

As we refocus on our vision “Love My Community,” we continue to be reminded about what it means to live in community and on mission.

This week's resource focuses us on the following:

Main Idea: We are people who love.

Main Practice: Hospitality as a way to express Agape Love.

Main Teaching: John 13:31-36: Hospitality and Agape Love are catalysts to loving your community and living on mission.

Before your group gathers this week, prepare your own heart by praying for each group member by name. After everyone arrives, start the gathering time in the following way:

- Take a few minutes and talk through logistics for the mission your group has chosen to serve. Be sure to clarify any tasks and who has ownership of them. If your group hasn't yet defined a mission, keep at it and try to pinpoint how your group can serve. The goal is to carry the vision of loving our community in specific and tangible ways this season.
- If you haven't chosen a place to serve, please take a few minutes and do so at eastview.church/lmc.

As We Begin . . .

- Share something you were thankful for from this past week.
 - Share about one of the nicest things someone has done for you.
 - Take a group picture and send it to smallgroups@eastview.church. Be sure to include the mission of your group in the email.
 - Share about how your acts of service went from last week.
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Love My Community . . .

WITH PRAYER:

Have someone read this prayer over the group:

“Jesus, remind us of truth. Give us faith enough to believe and hope enough to choose to embrace what is right and true. If we have swayed from you in any way, by sin, by shame, by error, by vanity, by pride, or by love of worldly things, reveal it to us now. Rekindle our love for you and others. Restore yourself as the center of our hearts. Reshape our thoughts by your truth, even as you shape our hearts by your love. Grant us courage to reorient our lives to walk in step with you. Amen.”

WITH PRINCIPLE:

“Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them.”

Romans 12:9a

Throughout the Bible story, God's people are called to live differently; to live in such a way that others notice and are intrigued. One of those tried-and-true ways is hospitality. Hospitality, as represented in the Bible, is a catalyst for Kingdom movements and for spiritual breakthrough and growth. It almost always starts with individuals and groups of people who are willing to genuinely love the people around them. But hospitality goes far beyond just a transactional and task driven motive, and the comforts of the known.

Those who truly follow Jesus are compelled to engage and care for others through what the New Testament describes as “agape” love. This type of love is what first compelled Jesus to sacrifice all for us. It's the type of love that can refocus us on what truly matters in our life. It's the type of love that sees people for how Jesus sees them. And it can first be expressed through a rich understanding of hospitality.

As we explore scripture, may we be challenged to reorient our lifestyles to fully embrace a type of love that tangibly displays Jesus to all people.

1. Read John 13:31-36 as a group. Pause for a few moments to let the words sink in and then have someone else read it again.

One of the main words Jesus uses in this passage is “love.” Jesus uses a specific form of that word with intention to cause us to pay attention. This form is “Agapao” or “Agape” which means to show affection, good will, benevolence and to entertain and welcome *everyone* with a dear contentment. In many ways, this love sees and meets people where and who they are.

- How have you experienced this type of love before? For help with this question, refer to Romans 5:8-10.
- How can we express this type of love to those around us? For help with this question, refer to Matthew 5:43-47 and Matthew 22:37-40.
- Complete this sentence: Jesus is asking me to love others by _____