



# ONE ANOTHER

## How We Should Treat Each Other

People are known by the way they treat others. Jesus told his disciples that the world would know who they followed by the way they treated each other. The church is God's way of sharing hope with the world. The world will only know that Christians mean what we say if they see that we truly love one another. In this study, we will learn more about the ways the Bible teaches us to treat one another.

# 1 - Love One Another

## Read

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” - John 13:34*

*“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” - John 15:12-13*

## Reflect/Discuss

- Are there people in your life that seem unlovable? What makes it difficult to love others?
- How has God shown us that He loves us?

## Consider

Jesus gave us the greatest example of love when He died for us. We show love this same way when we make a choice to put others’ needs before our own. Jesus told His disciples to love in the same way He did. Jesus was moved with compassion to help those who were suffering or excluded. He put the will of the Father and the needs of others before His own needs and desires. He also loved us before we could do anything for Him in return.

The book of Romans tells us that loving others is our way of obeying God’s law and that loving others means doing them no harm. (Romans 13) If we want to please God, we will choose to love others. Loving others means reflecting the love that God has shown for us. He encourages us, is patient with us, forgives us, and intercedes for us. When we do these things for each other, we are obeying God’s command and also showing the world what His love looks like.

## Act

- Study what the Bible says about love. Consider memorizing I Corinthians 13.
- Choose one characteristic of God’s love to focus on this week. Make a plan for reflecting that characteristic in your life. (i.e. God’s love is patient. I will choose to focus on being patient with my coworkers this week.)

## Go Deeper

- [How Do I Love My Neighbor](#)

## 2 - Encourage One Another

### Read

*“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”*

*- 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

### Reflect/Discuss

- Have you ever been encouraged by another person’s words or actions? How did it help build your faith?
- Why do we need encouragement from others?

### Consider

Life is full of unexpected and discouraging situations. It can be difficult to remember the promises of God when you are facing difficult circumstances. We can easily be discouraged and overwhelmed by feelings of doubt or even despair. This is why we need the encouragement of fellow believers.

In the book of Exodus, during an important battle, Moses held his staff in the air so that God would give his people victory. Whenever he dropped the staff, they would start to lose the battle. As his arms began to grow weary, others came and held his arms up for him until the battle was won. (Exodus 17) This is a beautiful picture of how we should encourage one another. We hold each other up.

When someone is facing a trial, we can speak the truth of God’s word to them, reminding them of God’s character- His goodness and His faithfulness. We hold each other up by reminding each other of the promises of God’s word. When we encourage someone, we help them to fulfill their God-given purpose.

### Act

- Choose someone in your life to encourage this week. Think of a specific way to remind them of God’s goodness.
- Ask God to encourage your heart. Write down a verse or verses that encourage you. Look for opportunities to share that with someone in your life.

### Go Deeper

- [What’s Stopping You from Being an Encourager](#)

## 3 - Be Patient with One Another

### Read

*“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love” - Ephesians 4:2*

### Reflect/Discuss

- What kind of situations cause you to feel impatient?
- How has God shown us patience?

### Consider

This verse in Ephesians instructs us to be humble and gentle, showing patience to one another. This means that when someone frustrates us or lets us down, we are supposed to respond the same way that God responds to us in our own failures. Living and working with other people can often lead to disappointment. Patience means we are not in a hurry to get our own way. It means that we are willing to wait on God’s timing for things to work out. Impatience is a sign of worry. It means that we are not trusting God to resolve the situation in His time and His way.

We can learn patience from looking at the life of Jesus. He showed remarkable patience with His disciples. They often lacked faith, misunderstood Him, disappointed Him, and even betrayed Him. Yet He did not give up on them. He continued to teach them with kindness and understanding. God also shows endless patience with us, not allowing our repeated failures to separate us from Him. When we are struggling to be patient with another person, we can remember how God is patient with us.

### Act

- Plan ahead for how you will respond to the next situation that tests your patience. Write out a verse that reminds you of God’s patience for you to help you remember to be patient with others.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you turn impatient thoughts into prayers of gratitude. Instead of complaining, focus on why you are grateful for a person or situation.

### Go Deeper

- [Be a Grace Giver](#)

## 4 - Forgive One Another

### Read

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” - *Ephesians 4:32*

“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” - *Colossians 3:13*

### Reflect/Discuss

- What are some examples of forgiveness in the Bible?
- Why can it be difficult to forgive someone who hurts us or our loved ones?

### Consider

Forgiveness can be difficult because it feels like we are doing something good for the person who wronged us. We feel like that person deserves our anger or unforgiveness because of their actions. The truth is that unforgiveness hurts us more than we are willing to admit. It can become a poison to all of our relationships, including our relationship with God.

The Bible tells us that Jesus died for us while we were still sinners. We did nothing to deserve the forgiveness and salvation that he gives us. When we choose to forgive others we are living in the power of the cross. This shows the power of the gospel to the world around us. When we choose to forgive it also allows God to work in our relationships, opening the door to restoration and peace.

### Act

- Spend some time thanking Jesus for forgiving you. Write out or say a prayer thanking him for showing forgiveness when you did not deserve it.
- Is there someone in your life that you struggle to forgive? Write down three things to pray for in that person's life. Whenever you are tempted to hold on to bitterness or anger, choose one of those things and pray for God to work in their life.

### Go Deeper

- [Freedom of Forgiveness](#)

## 5 - Pray for One Another

### Read

*“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”*

- James 5:16

### Reflect/Discuss

- What kinds of examples are in the Bible of people praying for each other? What do you notice about them?
- Are there any fears or doubts that keep you from praying for others?

### Consider

One of the most important things we can do for each other is pray. There are many situations where we might feel powerless to help a friend or loved one but prayer is actually the most powerful thing we can do. This verse in James tells us that the righteous person’s prayers are both powerful and effective. This is not describing just a pastor or great hero of the faith, but everyone who believes in Jesus! The New Testament teaches us that we are made righteous by the blood of Jesus through our faith and not our works. This means that we can pray confidently in the name of Jesus with the expectation that God hears and answers our prayers.

Prayer also allows us to bear one another’s burdens. It starts when we are honest with each other about struggling or needing help. The first part of this verse talks about confessing to each other. When we are open with others about our struggles, it allows them to see God at work in our lives to bring change and healing, as they pray for us and with us. This builds the faith of others and brings glory to God.

### Act

- Be honest with someone you trust about an area of your life that needs prayer. Ask them to pray with you and to continue to pray for you.
- Choose someone in your life and ask them how you can be specifically praying for them. Commit to praying for that person each day.

### Go Deeper

- [Praying to Our Father](#)

People will know that we belong to God because of the way that we treat each other. When we choose to love others by treating them the way that Jesus treats us, the Bible says that we become the hands and feet of God. God uses us to show the world His love. The more that we choose to love, the more we reflect God's love for all to see.

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