

**SERMON SERIES:** Responses: Love One Another  
**SPEAKERS:** Scott Beckenhauer & Tammy Steele  
**DATE:** September 2, 2018



## Key Line

God calls us to love one another toward a Jesus-centered life.

(Especially for newer group leaders, suggested time amounts are provided in parentheses, assuming a total discussion time of 30-45 minutes).

## Introduction (3-5 minutes)

What are various reasons people like to “hang out” with other people? (eg, shared interests, to socialize, don’t want to be alone, do activities together, etc)

Today we’re talking about “hanging out” with other people who have the shared interest of figuring out Jesus, and following Him.

## Seek the Word (8-10 minutes)

Read Luke 10:25-28.

Scott explained that the word “live” in verse 28 means “to have the best life possible.”

- What does the phrase “the best life possible” mean to you?
- What would it look like? (eg, a life of purpose and fulfillment)
- What would the opposite of that look like? (eg, empty, hopeless, just “going through the motions”)

So, loving others (verse 27) is part of having this “best life.”

Read John 13:34. The Greek word for love in this verse is “agape”, meaning “unconditional love.” Give examples of when you have witnessed someone loving someone else unconditionally (eg, parent / child)

**Talk About It (15-20 minutes)** *(Note for newer group leaders: These are the “digging-deeper discussion questions.” They are designed to begin to lead your group into possible personal applications. We’ve provided a ton of ‘em; it’s not crucial to get through all of them. You know your group best, so pick the questions that will best challenge and engage your group members.)*

Scott mentioned that people don’t always really know down-deep why they are to love other people. What might be some possible reasons people (Christians and / or non-Christians) give for why they love others? (eg, the other person loves them first; to get something; because the person is “loveable”, etc)

Today's Key Line reminds us that one of the reasons we love people is to help move them "toward a Jesus-centered life."

- How does that work? In other words, how could loving someone cause him/her to have a Jesus-centered life?
- Share examples of where you have seen that happen. Include examples, if possible, from your small group members' interactions with one another.

John 13:34 says "love one another." Who are your "one anothers"? (eg, members of this small group, family, friends, neighbors, sports/club members, etc)

Scott mentioned there are at least 70 commands in Scripture listing things we are to do for our "one anothers" beyond loving them. If possible, brainstorm as many of those as you have time for... write them on a whiteboard or piece of paper (large paper taped to a wall, if you can). Examples include: serve one another, confess our sins to one another, encourage one another, serve one another, carry one another's burdens...

Now, look at that list in its entirety. What does that do to you? (eg, may seem overwhelming; may be encouraging to think about people doing those things for me; etc)

Let's ask it again: who are your "one anothers"? In other words, who are the people for whom you do the items on the above list?

- Then, the flip side, who are the people who do those items for you?

Tammy stated that groups at Calvary hopefully fulfill 4 purposes: Word (studying the Bible together), prayer (praying with and for each other), mission (serving people, both inside the group and outside), and community (fellowship).

- How does our group do in each of those 4 areas?
- Is there anything we could do to strengthen any of them?

Calvary is doing its annual fall "groups campaign" to encourage people who aren't in a small group, to try one for 6 weeks.

- Discuss some of the reasons people give for not wanting to join a small group. (Hint: Tammy gave us several!)
- Have you personally felt any of those reasons? If so, how did you eventually overcome them to join this group?

Calvary is still asking people to consider being a group leader.

- What are some reasons people would choose to be a leader? (eg, to stretch my faith; because no other group meets my needs, in terms of scheduling or demographics or location; etc)
- What are reasons people give for not wanting to be a leader? (eg, I'm not qualified)

**Apply It** (5-10 minutes)

Read I Thessalonians 2:8 and Acts 2:42-47. Both passages point to sharing life together with other Christ-followers and Christ-seekers.

- Based on these passages, along with everything else we've discussed today, what would be your dream for our particular small group?

If your group is open to receiving new members, ask: is there anyone you can think of who you would like to invite to visit our group for the 6-week groups campaign starting in a few weeks?

Have you ever considered being a small group leader? Are you considering being a leader of a new group during this small group campaign? (It's not too late to do so! Sign up tables are still available at each of the campuses.)