LIFE TOGETHER NOTES
SERMON SERIES: THE PURSUIT OF LOVE
"PHILEO - BROTHERLY LOVE"
Week of September 13, 2026

Context:
Today's message focuses on the Greek word "phileo," which is one of four words the bible uses for the word "love." We often call it "brotherly love." You may know this is why they call Philadelphia, the "city of brotherly love."

In the New Testament, "*phileo"* (φιλέω) refers to a warm, tender, and affectionate friendship love. It is an emotional, relational bond based on shared affinity, mutual delight, and deep companionship—often translated as "brotherly love" or the affection shared between close friends. (GotQuestions.org)

Jesus uses the word "phileo" when he says, "*Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."*-John 15:13. This verse is part of Jesus' last message to his disciples, which we call the "upper room discourse" in chapters 14-17 in John.

Icebreaker:

1. What do you look for in a friend? Share about a close friend you have. What experiences have brought you close?

2. Why is it so important for a church to foster those kinds of friendships?

Have someone read: John 15:9-17

Digging Deeper:

1. As you read this passage, in verses 9 through 12, Jesus uses the word "agape" when he uses the word love. "Agape" is the Greek word which means "unconditional" and "sacrificial love." This is the kind of love Jesus demonstrated for us on the cross, when he died for us. Then, in verse 13, Jesus uses the word "phileo" or "brotherly love." How does Jesus' "agape" love for us bridge the gap for the brotherly love he wants us to show each other?

2. What do you think Jesus means when he says, *"No greater love is there than this, than to lay down one's life for one's friends?"*

3. How do we develop a capacity to love like this? What does our relationship with Jesus have to do with this? See verses John 15:5-12.

Application for Daily Life:

1. How might friendships with fellow Christians be different from those in the world? Give examples if you can.

2. What are some practical ways we lay down our lives for our friends?

3. Who is someone you know who might need this kind of love right now?

Close your time in prayer, praying for each other's requests!