LIFE TOGETHER NOTES

SERMON SERIES: THE PURSUIT OF LOVE –
"AGAPE – UNCONDITIONAL AND SACRIFICIAL LOVE"

Week of September 28, 2026

Context:

The fourth Greek word for love in our sermon series is "*agape*" love. This is the Greek word used in the most famous verse in the bible. *"For God so "agape'd" the world that He gave us His only Son, so that whoever would believe in Him would not perish but have eternal life."* – John 3:16

"Agape" love is also used here, "*This is my commandment: "agape" each other in the same way I have "agape'd" you. There is no greater "agape" than to lay down one's life for one's friends."* – John 15:12-13 (NLT)

"Agape" love is the love Jesus demonstrated for us when he came down from heaven and became servant even unto death on the cross. Jesus demonstrated "agape" love to everyone he met and encountered. His type of love shows us exactly what the Father's love looks like. Because we know from 1 John 4:8, "*God is love."*

The three best ways to describe is, "unconditional, action oriented, and self-sacrificial." Today's passage from John 15 starts with the importance of abiding in Christ. The verses for today (9-17) show us how our love flows from the love of Jesus.

Icebreaker:

1. How does the world's definition of love different from "agape love?"

2. Give an example of a person who has demonstrated "agape love" to you?

Have someone read: John 15:9-17

Digging Deeper:

1. Why do you think there is so much emphasis in these verses on the connection between love and obeying Jesus' commandments?

2. What is the connection between joy and obedience? Why does the word "obedience" sometimes have a negative connotation in our culture?

3. What do you think Jesus means when he uses the word "fruit" in this passage?

Application for Daily Life:

1. Do you feel you have ever truly accepted God's unconditional love? Why or why not?

2. What kind of people are the most difficult for you to love? Why do you think this is the case? What might God be teaching you?

3. Do you have a hard time receiving love from others?

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