

Flourish

LOVE LIKE JESUS

Boulder Campus Discussion Questions

Week of 1/21/24

“Love like Jesus.” It’s what we aspire to do in every relationship—with our family, our coworkers, our neighbors, people at Calvary, and even strangers we encounter. Why does it matter? It matters because some of Jesus’s final words to his disciples were these:

³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
John 13:34-35 ESV

This first week of discussion questions in 2024 comes at the midpoint of our series as we ask what it means to love *our friends* like Jesus.

Text: 1 Samuel 18:1-5; 19:1-7; and 23:15-18

Icebreaker: Based on your experience, what kind of qualities make for a good friend?

1. Read 1 Samuel 18:1-5. How would you describe Jonathan’s actions toward David?

Application: What kind of commitments or costs might be required for a close and lasting friendship?

2. These verses include the comments that “the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David” and repeats that Jonathan “loved [David] as his own soul.” What insights do these comments provide about what friendship is like?

Application: Who has your soul been knit to as a friend? Describe what makes this person a close friend.

3. Read 1 Samuel 19:1-7. How would you describe Jonathan’s actions here? How do these verses validate what was said in the previous passage (18:1-5)?

Application: What experience have you had in either standing up for a friend or having a friend stand up for you? What can happen to a friendship if this doesn’t happen?

4. Read 1 Samuel 23:15-18 where David is on the run because Saul is out to kill him. What do we see in Jonathan’s actions in these verses that demonstrate his love for David?

Application: How has a friend “strengthened [your] hand in God”? What kind of actions can we take to do this for each other in this LifeGroup?

Building Christ-centered communities of people fully devoted to loving God and loving others.

5. What do you see in Jonathan's example that reminds you how Jesus loved his friends?

Application: What's your biggest takeaway from this week's emphasis on friendship? Is there some way you would like to grow to be a better, more loving friend? Consider sharing it with your group and asking for their prayer and encouragement to carry it out.