

Flourish

LOVE LIKE JESUS

Thornton 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:

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By 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: John 15:12-15; 1 Samuel 18:1-5

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

1. What is the difference between Christian community and friendship? How have these been different in your life? Has there been any overlap?

2. Read John 15:12-15. What does it mean that Jesus has made you his friend? How does Jesus’ picture of friendship shape our understanding and value of it?

3. From Proverbs, we see that friendship entails bonding, honesty, empathy, and consistency. What has this looked like in your friendships? How have you seen these grow or how can they grow?

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

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

5. 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.

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