



# COMMUNITY GUIDE

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## WEEKLY APPLICATION

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**TAKEAWAY:** It's possible through the example of Jesus to love people that we are not fully aligned with.

**HEAD CHANGE:** Joy isn't found in communities with full alignment.

**HEART CHANGE:** Loving and being united with people that are different than me prepares me for Heaven

**LIFE CHANGE:** By connecting with the Father, being empowered by the Spirit and dying to myself I can love people like Jesus.

## OVERVIEW

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### Love Without Alignment

It is easier to only love people we agree with, but we must remember that joyful Christ-centered communities are diverse and therefore accepting of all people. Jesus lived His life with people that did not think, talk, act, or believe like Him yet was able to draw in the sinner, as well build up disciples. Agreeing is not the goal, rather loving and being united is. Through the life of Jesus, we see His connection to the Father, the power through the Spirit, and His humility being the reason He was so affective at loving all people. Let us not just worship Jesus as our sacrifice but also follow His life as an example of how to love each other amid differences and disagreement.

*"Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.*

*Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others too."*

*-Philippians 2:1-4 (NLT) -*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What stood out to you in this teaching and why?
2. Where have you seen disagreements affect relationships in your life?
3. What does your connection to the Father look like on a daily basis?
4. Why is "death of self" so hard for us to grasp? How can we as followers of Jesus remember that our life and our faith are not about us?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER

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Father, thank you for loving us even when we are not fully aligned with you. We do not deserve your love and yet you don't hold it back. Help us to look and love like you here on Earth. To show people Jesus by the way we love and accept them regardless of what makes us different. Bring unity to our church, to our city, to our state. Help us to remember that our life is all about you, because Jesus' life and death was all about us. In Jesus' name, amen.

**IN THIS TOGETHER!**