

# REDISCOVER CHRISTMAS

GOOD NEWS IN TROUBLING TIMES

LOVE | 12.20.20

## TALK IT OVER

### MAIN POINTS

1. Christ is love embodied.
2. Love defines and propels us.
3. Love empowers us to cross the borders.

### KEY SCRIPTURES

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

<sup>9</sup> God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him.

<sup>10</sup> This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.

**John 4:7-11**

<sup>43</sup> “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. <sup>44</sup> But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!

**Matthew 5:43-44**

Select 1 or 2 questions from each section of this guide to lead your group or house church in a discussion. Feel free to adjust as needed. Each section is designed to follow each video segment of the message.

- **Video Section #1: Explore the Topic**
  - > Start it Out | Goal: Get people talking
- **Video Section #2: Explore what God says about the Topic**
  - > Talk it Out | Goal: Get the group talking about scripture
- **Video Section #3: Explore what we do with the Topic**
  - > Live it Out | Goal: Choose a question to encourage next steps
  - > Pray it Out | Goal: Lift up prayers, petitions, and praises

### Start it Out | Goal: Get people talking

- Referencing the story of the two farmers, have you ever been in a feud/disagreement with someone? If comfortable, explain.
- What do the “bridges” of restoration look like for you in your life?
- What does it mean when Pastor says, “The love Jesus embodied was a fearless love.”?

### Talk it Out | Goal: Get the group talking about scripture

- **Read: John 4:7-11**; then ask, “According to John, what is *real love*?”
- What does our love for one another have to do with God’s love for us?
- **Read: Matthew 5:43-44**; then ask, “What does it look like to love our enemies?” If you’ve done this, what has been your experience?

### Live it Out | Goal: Choose a question to encourage next steps

- What does it look like to spread love over this next week?
- Can you identify a person you need to “cross the bridge” before the New Year?
- Review the **MAIN POINTS** and consider way to live it out.

### Pray it Out | Goal: Lift up prayers, petitions, and praises

- Pray together
- Take time to share prayer requests, and spend time praying for our church, community, country, and world. Help the members of your group to feel invited and cared for.

HOPE | PEACE | JOY | LOVE