

# DISCIPLESHIP

## 3. Continuing in Discipleship



*(Leader's Notes)*

In our previous study we discovered that it can be costly to follow Jesus, but we have his assurance that he is always with us. It is a life lived with him. Let's look now at another quality of discipleship that Jesus taught and demonstrated through his own life, and that is his love for people. We are commanded to follow his example and love others. This is the evidence that we are truly his disciples.

**Scripture Reading: Luke 10:25-37, John 13:1-35**

### **1. Love your Neighbour** Luke 10:25-37

- ♥ How did this man, who was an expert in the law, answer Jesus' question? V27. Notice that he was quoting from the Old Testament. See Deuteronomy 6:5.  
*(This lawyer answered by saying, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind", and, "Love your neighbour as yourself.")*
- ♥ Why do you think love for God and one's neighbour is so closely linked? V27. Discuss.
- ♥ What motivated the Samaritan to help the man who was attached? V33. What barriers and prejudices did he have to overcome to give this help? Discuss.  
*(In the society at that time a Jew and a Samaritan did not have anything to do with one another, and neither would a man and woman speak together in public. The Samaritan had to overcome these barriers to help the injured man, but he did so because he had pity for him.)*
- ♥ In what ways did Jesus demonstrate this compassion to others? Think of some examples from the Gospels.  
*(Jesus demonstrated this compassion by healing the sick, raising the dead, feeding the 5000 and telling stories about the Father's love.)*
- ♥ What do these verses teach us about true compassion and love for our neighbour? What does it mean to love our neighbour as ourselves?  
*(We are to show love and compassion to anyone who comes across our paths, whoever they are, because they are created in the image of God and loved by him. Just as we would want others to help us in time of need, and show love to us, so we too must love others.)*

### **2. Love One Another** John 13:1-35

Jesus taught his disciples the importance of loving others, but in particular he showed them that they needed to love one another.

- ♥ How did Jesus demonstrate to the disciples the importance of love in this story? What does it show us about the true meaning of love?  
*(Jesus demonstrated his love by washing the disciples' feet. Love is not self-serving, but is willing to serve others. It is not about what you can get, rather how you can give.)*

- ♥ Although Jesus knew that Judas was going to betray him, how did Jesus demonstrate his love for him?  
V5  
*(Jesus washed Judas' feet, expressing his love towards him, even though he knew he would betray him.)*
  
- ♥ Think about the people in your life. Are there some you are struggling to love? How does Jesus' example speak to you?
  
- ♥ How is it possible to love as Jesus commanded us to? Look up the following verses: Romans 5:5, 1 John 3:16-18, 4:19-21  
*(It is possible for us to love others as we have received God's love. We need to yield to the Holy Spirit and he will pour God's love through us.)*

It's not always easy to love others, is it? There may be people who have hurt us, or they don't like us! Yet we are told by Jesus to love them. In fact the Bible says that we can't say we love God, who we cannot see, if we don't love others who we can see. When we have experienced God's forgiveness and received his Spirit, his love is in us. It's a choice we make, to forgive and love others, and as we yield to the Holy Spirit, God's love will flow through us. "God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."