



LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

TRUE LOVERS - PART I

WWW.SDROCK.COM/TRUELOVERS

Scripture: 1 John 4:20

Pastor Miles McPherson – 19 April 2015

Pastor Miles began a new series called True Lovers. If you're familiar with the 5 Love Languages, by Gary Chapman, Pastor Miles began to unpack what the Love Languages are: 1 – Words of Affirmation, 2 – Gifts, 3 – Quality Time, 4 – Acts of Service, 5 – Physical Touch.

There's a correlation between how we love people and how we love God. Over the next couple weeks we want to spend some time understanding how we love people but more importantly how we love God.

1 John 4: 20 it says *"Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen."* It is impossible to truly love in truth the Almighty God (Father) whom we can't see, and, yet at the same time, hate, mistreat, or disrespect our brothers and sisters, friends, neighbors, co-workers, family members whom we can see.

MEMORY VERSES

"Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."
Matthew 22:37

DISCUSSION STARTERS

TAKE A FEW MINUTES:

Ask if anyone has ever received a gift or present from someone that was not really something you wanted, needed or could use (or totally NOT your style)... but you knew it was something that the giver really liked?

Was it awkward after opening the present?

Share about that experience.

Ask if anyone has given a gift that they really liked themselves, but had a pretty good idea the person who received the gift wouldn't appreciate it that much?

SHARE WITH THE GROUP:

How we interact with others can be related to a financial bank or a car's gas tank.

Each person has a preference how they like to be credited, filled up or appreciated emotionally.

Describe a *relationship* (marriage, dating, friendship, family, co-worker, boss or etc.) where you were glad to be around those people. What was it that made you want to be around them - what you saw, what you felt, what you heard, etc.?



Conversely, describe a relationship where a person drained you when you interacted with them (don't give names or titles).

If you feel comfortable, share about a time where you felt like you were a deposit or withdrawal in someone's life. What was the outcome from that encounter?

STUDY QUESTIONS

Read 1 John 4:15-18

[1] If we believe God loves us, why is it sometimes hard to accept what comes in our lives *without* fear and worry?

[2] According to 1 John 4:19, God is the initiator and we are the responders to God's love. But, here are some examples where we do things backwards and put ourselves as the initiator and God as the respondent:

- * We feel we need to fast so God can respond to my fasting.
- * We feel we need to praise the Lord, so He can respond to our praises and Bless us back.
- * We feel we need to give (tithes) to God so He can give back to us.

What are some other examples where we try to make ourselves the initiator and hoping/expecting God to respond?

NOTE to LIFE Group leader: The attitude or behavior of expecting God to respond to man is very prevalent today. Ensure the group understands we praise God because His blessings are so bountiful and abundant we are overwhelmed. We respond to the grace and love from God. Knowing God will help us respond to Him better!

[3] Are there times when we pray, hoping God will agree with our decisions, wants and desires? What can we do to avoid that way of thinking?

Read 1 John 4:20

[4] As you remember things fellow brothers or sisters have done that have hurt us -- how can we overcome the feelings of frustration, anger, maybe even hate we have towards them?

[5] In order to learn better how to love someone, we can interact with them through their preferred Love Language (**Words of affirmation, gifts, quality time, acts of service or physical touch**).

Read aloud these Scriptures associated with each Love Language from the April 19 sermon notes. Pastor Miles reminded us that we are God's hands and voice; we all were created in God's image and we want to love others as such. Think about this as you read these scriptures.

- Words of affirmation Psalm 104:1 (your voice, your words)
- Gifts Romans 12:1-2 (your heart, body, mind, and soul)
- Quality Time Psalm 46:10 (your time, attention, availability)
- Acts of Service Mark 10:45 (your talent and treasure/money)
- Physical Touch Matthew 17:7 (your appreciation, greeting, affection)



PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Exercise: Review the Love Languages from the Sunday Sermon and or use the attached handout. Divide the 5 Languages to individuals or among smaller groups and have your LIFE Group share how they would express the Love Language up (Vertically) to God, then how they would express the Love Language (horizontally) to others.

- Word of Affirmation - What would you tell the Lord, God?
- Gifts - How would you present yourself as a present to God?
- Quality Time - How and when would you spend time with God?
- Acts of Service - As God's servant, friend what would you do for the God?
- Physical Touch – How would you touch or connect with God?

TAKE IT HOME!

1. As a LIFE Group make a commitment to take the 5 Love Languages Discovery Test this week <http://www.5lovelanguages.com/profile/> or download the free app, E-books and study guides.
2. Each day this week meditate on, speak aloud as a self affirmation/declaration, and make a personal prayer the memory verse *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."* Matthew 22:37
3. Spend some time studying the scriptures associated with each *Love Language* from the sermon notes. www.sdrock.com/truelovers
 - Words of affirmation-Psalm 10:1
 - Gifts-Romans12:1-2
 - Quality Time-Psalm 46:10
 - Acts of Service-Mark 10:45
 - Physical Touch-Matthew 17:7

