

## BIG IDEA

**The death you choose determines the life you live.**

## WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Discuss a sacrifice you have made for someone else. What did it cost you? Why did you do it?

**Read John 15:9-13.** According to this passage, how can believers remain in the love of God? Jesus makes it pretty clear in this passage: those who wish to remain in him must follow his commands, and his commands center around loving one another.

How can you love others as Christ has loved you? Is Jesus asking us to die for our friends? Support your answer.

This question may elicit some different responses. On one hand, Jesus was literally preparing to die for us, his friends. He showed his love for us in the way he sacrificed his life for us. How many of us are faced with the possibility of literally dying for someone, though? Probably never (or next to never). We all have opportunities to make sacrifices on behalf of others, though. It is easy to imagine that we would die for the ones we love while passing opportunities to love them in practical, self-sacrificial ways.

Consider this week's big idea in light of **John 15:9-13**. How are the concepts of "love," "death," and "life" related?

When we really love others, we will choose to "die" to ourselves so that we may love them the way Jesus loves us. It is in this death to self that we begin to experience the kind of life that Jesus wants for us.

## WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

**1 John 3:14 - 16.** Have you ever wrestled with hatred in your own heart? Can you relate to the way John describes this way of life?

John understands hatred as death in the lives of believers.

**Re-read John 15:9-15** and then reflect on the way you love others. Based on these passages, would you say that you "remain in Christ" or "remain in death"?

If we are known more for whom and what we hate than whom and what we love, we may be in danger of "remaining in death."

In what ways do you move toward death and away from loving like Jesus?

John correlates hate to murder. What emotions does this stir in you?





# LIFE GROUPS

## LEADER GUIDE

### WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

How willing are you to “lay your life down” for other people? Can you think of tangible ways that you have done this for the people you love? The people you dislike?

**Galatians 5:24-26.** What are ways that you can keep in step with the Spirit?

What are you conceited about? Do you provoke? Do you envy? Discuss steps that you can take to live life in the Spirit.

Who is “each other” to you? What is one thing you can do this week to show love to this person or those people?

