

Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

Message Summary

In Week 2 of The Love Buzz, we start to see that it's never enough to keep the buzz personally, and that we weren't even designed for that. Just like those around us affect us, we will do the same with the love that we've been given. In 1 John 3:16-18, John wrote about a chain reaction that takes place as a result of the love of God through Jesus. Paul broke it down into 2 sections:

1. **Want to know love? Look at the cross.** There will never be a greater example of pure love than what Jesus did on the cross. But mothers can come pretty close, can't they? They give time, money, sleep and so much more for one simple reason: they are crazy about their kids! Of course, moms aren't perfect and that's why John didn't point to Mary as the greatest example of love. It all starts with Jesus, and to see love, we always need to look at Him.
2. **Want to show love? Start in the church.** Of course, it's never enough to just be loved, is it? When we're loved as deeply and as purely as we are by Jesus, it makes us want to give that away, and the place we start doing that is among our brothers and sisters. The Love Buzz starts with friendship with God personally, and then oozes out onto the family of God privately. John goes so far as to say if we don't love in the church, then we've never even known the love of Jesus. We know love by what Jesus did on the cross, and we show love by what we do in the church.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- As you've thought back through this week's message, what one thing – if any – inspired you or maybe even confused you?
- What are some of the ways that your mom sacrificed for you, if any?
- What 3 words best describe your mom?
- Paul mentioned in the message that we need to “stop trying to be selfless and start living to reinvest.” How did you react to that statement? What are the benefits of being so full of something that the overflow is what we're giving away? How does seeing service as a reinvestment of what we've been given change your perspective?
- John says that when we truly experience the love of Jesus, we'll naturally show that love practically by serving the family of God. Is there someone at The Gathering – possibly in your Community Group – that you feel God is calling you to serve right now? How will you live that out this week?
- This week's Big Idea says, “When Jesus gets more of me, you will, too.” Do you think it's possible for us to be so full of Jesus that we WOULDN'T be affected by it?
- Have you seen people who were all talk and no action? How did that change your perspective about what they were saying?