

**What is Love—Let's Get Practical
Study Questions**

1 John 3:18; Philippians 2:3-4; Ephesians 4:29

Warm-up

1) When you think about how love is portrayed in our culture, what song lyrics, movie scenes, or Internet memes come to mind most readily?

A little deeper

2) [1 John 3:18] A lot of people may say they love their neighbor or their brother or sister, but they come up short when it comes time to actually follow through with action. **What are some actions that you've seen or considered that demonstrate love? What's an example of hard truth spoken in love?**

3) [Philippians 2:3-4] Taking for granted that God will provide what we *need* (possibly through His church), these verses implore us to humbly consider the interests and desires of others before our own. **In context of the surrounding verses, who should we concentrate our loving acts of service on (just anyone, or some specific people or groups)? What does all this mean in terms of communicating our interests and desires to others in the Body of Christ?**

4) [Ephesians 4:29] See also Matthew 12:36 and Ephesians 5:4. **What are some of the reasons people speak coarsely or with empty words? Assuming it's not out of love, where does it come from?**

What sorts of clues do we get that the things we're thinking of saying (or have just said) are not loving?

Bringing it home

5) What are some things you've said, done, or failed to do recently because your focus was not on loving the other person you were with?

Where was your focus instead?

What do you think it would take for love to win out the next time a similar situation happens?

6) Consider each of the following aspects or facets of love that were discussed this Sunday. Love...

...is an action	...is selfless	...never walks out
...keeps no record of wrongs	...is not envious or jealous	...speaks to build up, not tear down
...is a commitment	...is sacrificial	...is serving

What aspect of love do you struggle with most?

Have you ever experienced this aspect of love from someone? If so, reflect on how it impacted you, and realize how much of a gift and blessing it can be to someone you love.

If not, can you think of someone else who has demonstrated this aspect of love that inspires you to emulate them (possibly from scripture)?