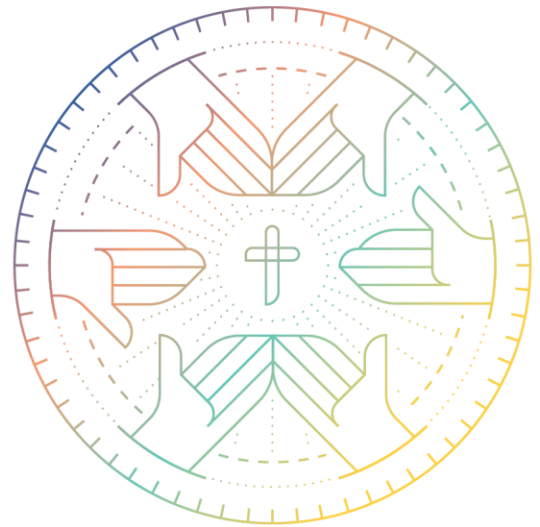


# Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



## MEETING AGENDA

### WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

This week we are continuing our series *Building Blocks* where we are learning from Peter the importance of actively building our foundation of faith. This week we will focus on the building blocks of brotherly affection and love. We will be reminded that our spiritual growth is up to us and that we can be empowered by experiencing the love of God.

Don't forget to take attendance via the attendance reminder email.

### ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

What is something that you love and why? (Examples, a sports team, movie, author, hobby, etc.)

### INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Anchor Verses: 2 Peter 1:7-8

This week we will focus on the building blocks of brotherly affection and love. We will be reminded that our spiritual growth is up to us and that we can be empowered by experiencing the love of God.

### INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

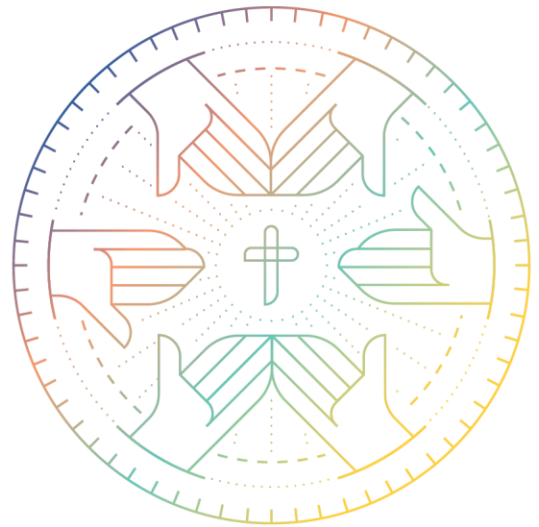
- 1. Read 1 Peter 1:22, 1 John 4:20, and John 13:34-35. Two critical aspects of the building block of brotherly love are how it shows how natural our new life in Jesus is and how it can make the rest of the body of Christ stronger and more confident. Of these two aspects, which one stands out to you and why?**

#### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. In 1 Peter, we see that our brotherly love emerges from our obedience to the truth. It is an overflow of the relationship we have with Christ. In 1 John, we see that our love for other believers is directly connected to our love for God. Jesus tells us that our love is the defining characteristic of who we are and is displayed in how we treat each other.]*

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2. Read Romans 2:10, Ephesians 2:12, and 1 Peter 4:8. Do you ever struggle to show affection toward other Christians? What things make it hard to love other Christians?

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. Remembering that other believers are also children of your Father in heaven is essential. Next, be sure to look for evidence of grace in their lives. We have been forgiven and made to and must extend that forgiveness to others, especially those who confess Jesus as lord. Finally, it is essential to remember that you were once alienated from God but now have been made a part of His family.]*

3. Read 1 Corinthians 16:14, 1 John 4:8, and Romans 5:8. When thinking about love, it is essential to be reminded of four radical ideas about love:

- **God is love and cannot be genuinely known apart from love. To know God, you must experience His love.**
- **God wants our love and friendship, not just our proper behavior.**
- **God can't help loving you. It's His nature. He loves you deeply and extravagantly – just as you are.**
- **God loves sinners, redeems failures, delights in second chances, and never tires of pursuing lost sheep.**

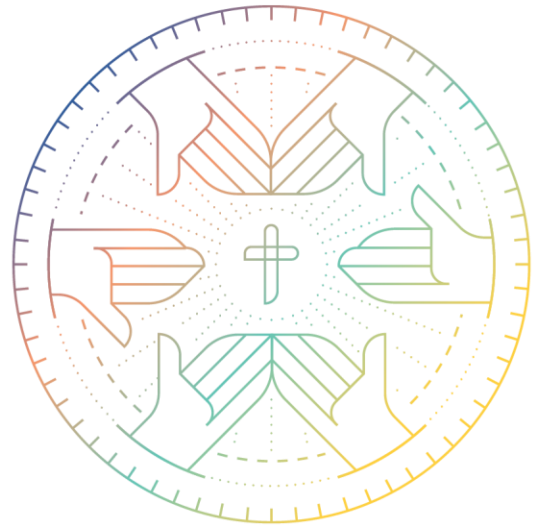
Of the ideas listed, which one sticks out to you and why?

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. God is love. Love is a core aspect of God's character, His Person. God is the perfect example of true love. Amazingly, God has given those who receive His Son Jesus as their personal Savior the ability to love as He does through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Gotquestions.org) When we experience His love, we can transfer that to how we treat others.]*

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## APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

1. **Read Romans 12:9-10, 1 Thessalonians 4:9, and Ephesians 4:1-2. What would brotherly affection look like for you in your life this week?**

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. Brotherly affection is translated from the Greek word Philadelphia and is mentioned six different times in the New Testament. It is defined as being known for kindness and earnest affection towards each other. Maybe this could play out in how you choose to be present with your family at dinner. Or offering to help with a work project your family or wife has on the to-do list without having to be asked.]*

2. **Read 1 Thessalonians 3:12 and Philippians 1:9. Where in love do you need to grow in your capacity to love this week?**

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. Find comfort that we all need to grow in our capacity to love. Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians, that we can ask the Lord to increase the love we have for one another. In Philippians, it is something for us to pray for. You may need more capacity to love a family member that you don't see eye to eye with. Maybe for you, it is a coworker that really pushes your buttons.]*

3. **Over the last few weeks, we have looked at eight building blocks of faith. Which building block do you need to grow in, and what is one practical step you can take this week to begin to develop in your life?**

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. We are fully equipped. But we have a choice about whether or not we'll really use those spiritual tools. This requires effort on our part. Jesus sets the standard for what is good and glorious, calls for us to follow, and fully equips us to make the journey. (Bibleref.com) It is important that we begin to take practical steps to cultivate these building blocks in our lives as we grow in our walks with Christ.]*

## PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

*Dear heavenly Father, may we grow in our brotherly affection and love. Help us see one another with eyes that see them the way you do. May we love one another in a way that builds us up and shows Your kindness to others. May we be defined by our love as we enter a lifelong journey and apprenticeship under you. We pray all these things in Your excellent name. Amen.*