

Week: for **November 11, 2020**

Scripture: **John 13:31-14:20**

Bottom Line: **Jesus' love is a gift, a command, and a way.**

A personal note from **Sarah**: What I heard from the two students with whom I convened prior to developing this teaching, and what you will hear a student speak to in the call to worship, is that middle and high school students are grappling with a lot of anxiety. I do not think anxiety is a unique issue for adolescents, but the type of anxiety they (and I would argue adults, too) are managing lately feels unique. I think there is a twofold encouragement to find in these verses: 1) we see the disciples also expressing anxiety and asking questions and 2) we see Jesus responding definitively and gently to that anxiety.

- Use the following questions to help move group discussion along, draw them out, and get them talking.
- As always, feel free to adapt or change or edit these as you see fit. If you want to get some more ideas look at “The Art of Group Talk” for guys or girls in the leader lounge, or other resources you find there.
- If you do get any feedback, questions, comments, or connections on the teaching tonight – please let one of our staff know so we can follow up in the live Q&A on Friday afternoon!
- **MAKE SURE** you find out how to be praying for them right now and take time to pray together before you exit.

Questions for discussion:

Responding to the Passage

- The passage is broken into parts: the new commandment, the foretelling of Peter's denial, and Jesus' explaining that he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Does one of those parts resonate more with you? Why?
- Consider the setting here, Jesus has pulled away from the crowds and is speaking exclusively to his disciples. What do you notice about their behavior and, consequently, their hearts? In what ways might this be a directive for us? An encouragement to us?
- Jesus' disciples are anxious for the season that is coming in which Jesus will not be physically with them. We might even read in their questions feelings of imminent abandonment. How does Jesus respond to that? What help does he speak to?
- What does loving others as Christ loves us look like practically in our lives in 2020?

Personal Responses and Applications

- What are you anxious about right now?
- In what way(s) might Jesus' command to love meet that anxiety?
- How can your D Group leader and members specifically pray for you in that effort?