

# Lost in TRANSLATION

February 25, 2018

Week 4 Member Guide

## THE WIN

Group members will identify some excuses we make to keep us from loving fully and explore what it means to love sacrificially.

## SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In the message this week we learned that our actions reveal our love for one another and one practical way is to meet the needs of others.

What stuck out to you in this week's message?

## WARM UP

Who is the most loving person you have ever known personally? Why do they come to mind?

## THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

Last week we were challenged to be generous with those around us and be sensitive to our heart behind the gift.

- Share how you were generous last week to someone in your arena of influence? (Pause for Answers)  
How did someone's generous act towards you this week make you feel?

**READ:** 1 John 3:14-17 and Matthew 25:31-46

- Are you surprised that John says that our love is a barometer for our love for Jesus?

One morning you are running late to work. You pull up to a stop light, and you notice a man and his dog holding a sign "Just looking for a little help." At that moment, you are faced with two choices 1) Pay no attention to the man because he may use it for something you don't approve of OR 2) Roll down your window and hand him some change and speak a little blessing.

You proceed to drive towards your destination when you see a woman on the side of the road with a flat tire and flashers on, two choices present themselves again, 1) continue to drive towards your destination or 2) Stop and help, making yourself sweaty and late to work.

There scenarios like this that we face on a regular basis, and we can have a list of excuses to explain the choices we would make, but in light of 1 John 3:14-17 and Matthew 25:31-46:

- In light of these two scriptures, how would you respond to someone who has closed off their heart to those in need?
- What do our excuses say about our heart and love for God?
- What barriers or obstacles stand in your way from us loving people fully?

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**READ:** 1 John 3:18

For followers of Christ, love isn't really love unless love is in action. Do you find yourself saying words like "I'm sorry for all you're going through. I will pray for you."

- What are some ways that you can personally act beyond words and show the love that Christ has put in you?
- How could your group exhibit this love for the community and world to take notice?

**READ:** Philippians 2:5– 8

- In what ways was Jesus the ultimate example of this self-sacrificial love?
- What can we learn and apply to our lives about love from Jesus's example?

**READ:** Romans 12:9-19

- How do you think the world defines "love"?

Romans 12:9-18 clearly defines what it means to love another deeply and sincerely, providing us a working model. This passage starts off by saying "love must be sincere." The rest of the passage describes a sincere love.

**DO THIS:** Using a sheet of paper, make three columns and make a list of the following from Romans 12:9-18

1) Things to do 2) Things not to do 3) Attitudes of the heart

- What keeps us from loving others this way?
- How can you love others selflessly (sincerely) and not selfishly this week?

## DIGGING DEEPER

**READ:** Titus 3:1–11

How does remembering that God rescued us foster sacrificial love?

## CLOSING THOUGHT

**Challenge:** John provides one very practical way to love one another: meet the material needs of other believers (1 John 3:17–18). This week, as a group, prayerfully consider identifying an individual or family whose material needs you can meet.

**Pray:** Ask God to show you opportunities this week to show acts of service to those in your arena of influence.