

## May 1 - Week 17 – Questions to Consider

### Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite Spring activity or childhood memory?

- Matthew 27 ~ Matthew 28 ~ Mark 15 ~ Luke 23 ~ John 19
1. Have you ever experienced someone plotting against you? Lying about you? What does that feel like?
  2. Matthew 27:1 “When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death.” What do you think Jesus was feeling when he endured the lies and accusations? The scourging? The mocking? The tortuous death? How does that affect you when you consider the depth of His love for you?
  3. Have you ever lost a friend, coworker or family member to suicide? How did that affect you? What do you think Judas’ friends and family members went through when they learned of his ongoing theft (John 12:4-7), betrayal of Jesus and the disciples (Matthew 26:14-16), and suicide (Matthew 27:3-10)? More truths on suicide: [www.trustworthyword.com/suicide](http://www.trustworthyword.com/suicide)
  4. God references Judas as a “devil” (John 6:70), “thief” (John 12:4-7), indwelt by Satan (John 13:27), says it would have been better for him if he was never born (Matthew 26:20-24), and speaks of him as “lost” and a “son of destruction” (John 17:12). If you had the chance to speak with someone who was about to enter Hell, how urgently would you warn them? What would you say?
  5. Why do you suppose the crowd chose Barabbas? (Matthew 27:15-22). Who do the crowds choose today?
  6. Read Jesus’ final words on the cross and discuss their meaning and impact.
    - 1st Word from the Cross - Luke 23:34 "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do."
    - 2nd Word from the Cross - Luke 23:43 "Today you will be with me in paradise"
    - 3rd Word from the Cross - John 19:26-27 "Jesus saw His own mother, and the disciple standing near whom He loved. He said to His mother, Woman, behold your son.' Then He said to the disciple, 'Behold your mother.'"
    - 4th Word from the Cross - Mark 15:34 "And at the ninth hour, Jesus shouted in a loud voice, 'Eloi, Elon, lama sabachthani?' which is translated, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
    - 5th Word from the Cross - John 19:28 "He said, 'I thirst.'"
    - 6th Word from the Cross - Luke 23:46 "Speaking in a loud voice, Jesus said, Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."
    - 7th Word from the Cross - John 19:30 "Jesus said, 'It is finished.'"

More questions at: [www.southfork.church/2022-discussion-questions](http://www.southfork.church/2022-discussion-questions)

## True Love

### Watch Joseph of Arimathea

John 19:38–42

John 15:12–17 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

## God Offers True Love

### 1. True Love Is Seen In G\_\_\_\_\_

1 John 4:7–12, 19 “God is love”

### 2. True Love Is R\_\_\_\_\_ In Thought & Action

1 Corinthians 13:4–8 & Philippians 4:8

### 3. True Love Hates E\_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 5:20 “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil”

Amos 5:15 “Hate evil, and love good”

### 4. True Love Loves G\_\_\_\_\_

Mark 12:30 “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”

### 5. True Love Loves & Forgives O\_\_\_\_\_

1 John 4:20–21 “whoever loves God must also love his brother.”

### 6. True Love F\_\_\_\_\_ God, Not Others

1 John 4:18 “perfect love casts out fear”

### 7. True Love Acts In T\_\_\_\_\_

1 Jn 3:18 “Let us not love in word or talk but in deed & in truth.”

## Satan Offers Fake Love

### 1. Satisfies, But Only Partially and Temporarily

Romans 12:9 & 1 John 2:15–17

### 2. Deceives and Leads to Hell

Ephesians 5:1–11

### 3. Mis-prioritizes the Creation Over the Creator

Matthew 10:37–39 & Romans 1:21–27

## **True Love - In Action**

### ***Watch Joseph of Arimathea***

Matthew 27:57-61 ~ Mark 15:42-47

Luke 23:50-56 ~ John 19:38-42

Isaiah 53:9 “And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death”

## **6 Steps of True Love**

### **1. Follow God G\_\_\_\_\_**

- Matthew 27:57 “a disciple of Jesus”
- Mark 15:42 “respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God”
- Luke 23:50 “a good and righteous man”

### **2. Take Risks**

- John 19:38 “Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews”
- Luke 23:51 he “had not consented to their decision and action”

### **3. Go P\_\_\_\_\_**

- Mark 15:43 “took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus”
- John 19:38 “asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission”

### **4. Step Out**

- John 19:40-41 “So he came and took away his body.”
- Mark 15:46 “taking him down”

### **5. Serve S\_\_\_\_\_**

- Matthew 27:59-60 “Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud [60] and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away.
- John 19:40-41 “Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. [40] So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.”
- Mark 15:47 “Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where he was laid.”
- Luke 23:55-56 “the women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. [56] Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.”

### **6. Obediently Wait**

- Luke 23:56 “On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.”

[www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-love](http://www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-love)

John 13:34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

### **This Next Week’s New Testament Reading Plan:**

Week 17: Matthew 27 & 28 ~ Mark 15 ~ Luke 23 ~ John 19

- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** [www.southfork.church/jesus](http://www.southfork.church/jesus)
- **Daily Verse by Text Message:** [remind.com/join/sfbcdevo](http://remind.com/join/sfbcdevo)
- **Our Plan:** [www.southfork.church/2022-bible-reading-plan](http://www.southfork.church/2022-bible-reading-plan)

## **True Love**

### **Watch Joseph of Arimathea**

#### **1 John 4 & John 15:12-17**

John 15:12–17 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. [13] Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

### **God Offers True Love**

#### **1. True Love Is Seen In God**

**1 John 4:7–12** “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. [8] Anyone who does not love does not know God, because **God is love**. [9] In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. [10] In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. [11] Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. [12] No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.” (ESV)

**1 John 4:19** “We love because he first loved us.”

#### **2. True Love Is Righteous In Thought & Action**

**1 Corinthians 13:4–8** “**Love is** patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant [5] or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; [6] it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. [7] Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. [8] **Love never ends**. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.”

**Philippians 4:8** “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, **think about these things**.” (ESV)

#### **3. True Love Hates Evil**

**Isaiah 5:20** “**Woe to those who call evil good and good evil**, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”

**Amos 5:15** “Hate evil, and love good”

#### **4. True Love Loves God**

**Mark 12:30** “**And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.**”

#### **5. True Love Loves & Forgives Others**

**1 John 4:20–21** “If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. [21] And this commandment we have from him: **whoever loves God must also love his brother.**”

#### **6. True Love Fears God, Not Others**

**1 John 4:18** “There is no fear in love, but **perfect love casts out fear**. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.”

#### **7. True Love Acts In Truth**

**1 John 3:18** “**Let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.**”

## Satan Offers Fake Love

### 1. Satisfies, But Only Partially and Temporarily Romans 12:9 “Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.”

1 John 2:15–17 “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. [16] For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. [17] And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”

### 2. Deceives and Leads to Hell

Ephesians 5:1–11 “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. [2] And **walk in love**, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. [3] But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. [4] Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. [5] **For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.** [6] Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. [7] Therefore do not become partners with them; [8] for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light [9] (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), [10] and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. [11] Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. (ESV)

### Mis-prioritizes the Creation Over the Creator

Matthew 10:37–39 “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. [38] And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. [39] Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

Romans 1:21–27 “For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. [22] Claiming to be wise, they became fools, [23] and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. [24] Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, [25] because **they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever! Amen. [26] For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; [27] and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.”

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