

becoming a CATALYST

...Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

John 13:34-35



Finish this sentence: "I'm pretty easy to live with, except when ____."

1. **Read John 13:34–35.** Jesus doesn't simply tell His disciples to love; He says, "Just as I have loved you." How does the way Jesus loves us change the way we are called to love others?
2. **Jesus says our love for one another will show the world that we are His disciples.** Why do you think He chose **love** as one of the clearest identifying marks of His followers? What might someone conclude about Jesus simply by watching the way Christians treat one another?
3. **Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–7.** Instead of thinking about someone else, put **your own name** in place of the word "love." Which description are you encouraged by? Which one makes you a little uncomfortable?

4. Think about the gap between **EXPECTATION** and **EXPERIENCE**. When someone doesn't do what we expected, we often fill that gap with assumptions, suspicion or offence. Why are we so quick to write a story about someone's motives when we don't actually know what happened? **Read Philippians 2:3–5**. What might it look like to **"fill the gap with love"**—giving someone the benefit of the doubt, becoming curious rather than accusatory, or having a conversation rather than assuming the worst? Is there a relationship where you need to practise that right now?
5. **Read Mark 2:1–12**. Focus particularly on the four friends. What do their actions teach us about love? What obstacles did they have to overcome to get their friend to Jesus? **The four friends couldn't heal the man, change him or save him. They simply carried him to the One who could.** How can remembering that relieve some of the pressure we feel when someone we love is struggling? What does it practically look like to help someone get closer to Jesus without trying to "fix" them?
6. **"Whose mat are you going to grab?"** Think of one actual person—not just "people" generally—who needs you to lead with love right now. What might grabbing a corner look like this week: a call, forgiveness, listening, showing up, an invitation, encouragement, or simply giving them some grace?

Prayer Focus - Pray together for God to help you:

- **Receive His love** — remembering that we love because He loved us first.
- **Recognise the gaps** where you've been assuming the worst about someone and choose grace instead.
- **Become more loving** — patient, kind, humble, forgiving and hopeful.
- **See the person** around you who is carrying something heavy.
- **Grab a corner** this week and take a practical step toward them.
- Pray for **Catalyst** to become known throughout our community not simply for what we believe or what happens on Sundays, but **for the way we love people**.

**We're not the source. We're the overflow.
He loved us first—so we lead with love.**