



Rock Bridge Small Group Discussion Guide
The God Box – Part 5
LEADER GUIDE

SMALL GROUP LEADERS: - Remember the C's of Small group health:

CONTENT - *biblical, intentional, and conversational*

CONSISTENCY - *regular meetings and interactions with one another*

CCARE - *sharing life's ups and downs with grace, love and encouragement*

CELEBRATION - *celebrating God's grace to us and having fun together*

COMMISSION - *participating in what God is doing now during our lifetime on earth*

CHARACTER - *as a leader – growing in my example for my group*

ICE BREAKER:

- What is your favorite love story (i.e.-book, movie, etc)?

INTO THE WORD:

- 1) Talk about the definition of love given this weekend. What surprised you? Challenged you? Excited you?

Read John 13:34-35

- 2) How is this command "new" when the Old Testament calls people to love (Deut. 6:4-7; Leviticus 19:18)?
- 3) Before Jesus gave this command, He washed the disciples' feet (see John 13:1-5). How does that act by Jesus teach this new way to love?
Teaching Tip: Consider having your group members list adjectives that describe the act of foot washing and how that illustrates the love Jesus is commanding.
- 4) Verse 35 describes how the church (i.e.-the disciples of Jesus) should be known. How would a non-Christian evaluate the church based on this criteria? How does v. 35 challenge you to live differently?

APPLY THE WORD:

- 5) Think of the definition of love used in this message. Who in your life (i.e.-a particular person) and/or what in your life (i.e.-a sin, a habit, a hurt) makes it difficult to love this way? What "intentional" action can you take toward demonstrating true love? How can we support you?
- 6) Read Romans 5:5 and Romans 5:8. Now talk about this statement as a group: *If I love God the most, I'll love others the best.*

Teaching Tip: Help your group see that we pursue the ability to love indirectly by pursuing God directly. As God loves grips us more and more, we overflow that love into our relationships and interactions with people. Encourage your group members to read their Bibles, worship, sing, attend church, etc. to become more immersed in God's love.

- 7) Discuss with your group our church's vision of connecting people to life in Christ and how it relates to loving people with the love of God. How can you personally take more ownership and responsibility for helping our church be a church of this kind of love?

PRAYER TIME:

- Pray for our church's HOPE initiatives in our community's... that they display the love of God for others.
- Pray for our small group... to be a group that grows in this type of love.
- Praise God for His love for us in Christ.