



Make It Simple

A Resource for Stewardship Education and Annual Response

Acting Together

Use this Bible Study outline to take participants deep into the scriptural basis for the theme “Acting Together,” from John 13:34-35. Choose from among the discussion questions—and possible activities—to form a plan of guided sharing that will help participants see God’s word as valuable for their daily living, and invite them into both simplicity and generosity.

Opening Prayer

Eternal God, you call us into relationship with you and with one another. Be present in the midst of our daily lives giving us strength and compassion to live as disciples of your Son. Guide us in our decisions, give us your love to share with the world around us and bring us closer to one another and to you. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen!

Read John 13:34-35.

Discussion Questions and Activities

1. In the upper room, Jesus gives his disciples a new commandment, “Love one another.” What are the implications of that command for you?
2. What are the possibilities when you think about how to apply this commandment to your life? Who does it include? Who is excluded? How would this look if everyone chose to honor this commandment and follow it?
3. We live in a culture that worships our individualism. We cherish the stories of the self-made person. The truth is none of us has made it on our own—no matter how much we try to convince ourselves that we have (or can). Where have you experienced community—the sense of “we are all in this together”—that Jesus commands his disciples to follow?
4. Where do you see the blessings of God in the community of this small group? How will you share your blessings with those in the group? What blessings will be most helpful for you as you seek to live more simply?

5. We are told to fear the stranger, and in too many places we do not even know our neighbors who live on our street. Fear plays a major role in breaking down of community. How does Jesus' command speak to this reality? What will you do in this next week to overcome your fears and begin to build new relationships with those who are currently "strangers" to you?
6. Watch the MAKE IT SIMPLE video segment, "Simply Being Alive." Talk about these matters:
 - How does Mayom's lifework connect to Jesus' invitation to welcome the stranger?
 - If you spent time together with Mayom, what could you learn about simplicity from him? How would that happen?
 - In verse 35, Jesus says, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." It is about witness to the world. How does that happen in Mayom's life? How is that happening in your daily life? In your congregation? In your community? In what ways do you help others to see what Jesus describes here?

Closing Prayers

In closing, pray for the blessing of this community of faith. Give thanks for the rich blessings that are shared within this community. Lift up the needs of members of the group, seeking God's presence in your lives together. End with the Lord's Prayer.