

Week 1

Group Discussion Questions - Ephesus

CONNECT

There are likely more songs about love than any other topic. Here are a few classics:

- *All You Need Is Love* by The Beatles
- *What's Love Got To Do With It?* by Tina Turner
- *Love Shack* by The B52's

What is your favorite song with "Love" in the title?

CONSIDER

Watch this week's Groups video at mynorthside.com/dearchurch. **What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?**

CHRIST

Read Revelation 2:1-7 (ESV).

In verse 2, we see Jesus beginning this letter to the church at Ephesus by saying, "*I know your works.*" In this world of hidden cameras, surveillance tapes, and video recorders in everyone's hands, it is hard for anything to be done in private. **Most people don't enjoy the fact that other people might know everything they are doing, but how does it make you feel to know that Jesus knows everything you are doing or have done?**

The works that Jesus has observed about the Ephesian church is a fairly long list of good deeds:

- their toil,
- their patient endurance,
- their dislike of evil,
- their unwillingness to tolerate false teachers,
- and that they have not grown weary in doing good works in Jesus' Name.

Yet Jesus takes the opportunity here to say, "*But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.*" **With such a long list of good works, is this one indiscretion something Jesus should have overlooked? Why or why not?**

Jesus did not immediately dole out punishment to the church, but instead issued a warning of what He would do if they did not repent. In the game of golf, when you get a second chance, it's called a mulligan. **In what area of your life would you like a mulligan? In your career? In a relationship? In raising a child? In your spiritual walk?**

Is it possible to love someone more today than you ever have, yet show them less than you have previously? Discuss.

The English language is sometimes very limiting. We use the word "love" to describe how we feel about a person, a certain food, an entertainer, a sports team, an object, or a pet. **If**

the message here is to get back to our first love, how do we go about that? How do we show the type of love that Jesus is looking for?

CALLING

The last question asked us how we can get back to showing the type of love that Jesus is looking for from the church at Ephesus. During the next month, make it a point to show that love in one of the areas you thought of. For example, if you said:

- “I need to get back to talking with God as I once did,” then commit to a time each day when you will pray and stick to that for the next 30 days.
- “I need to get back to serving God,” then find a serving opportunity and commit to starting that in the next 30 days. Going to mynorthside.com/serve is a great place to start!!

Daily Devotions: Take the time to read the daily devotions associated with this study. Then, to continue with this spiritual habit of daily devotion with God, text JOINGOD to 81411 or use the Study tab in the Northside App to receive devotions on a daily basis moving forward.

Further Study and Reflection:

Read *Desiring God* by John Piper (desiringgod.org).

Campus Crusade (CRU) in partnership with the Jesus Film Project, an organization committed to telling the stories of Jesus using film, lists on their website *15 Tips for Falling in Love with Jesus*:

- Surround yourself with others who love Jesus (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- Commit to consistent Bible reading (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- Pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- Remember His presence
- Find ways to serve others (Matthew 25:40)
- Take time to be quiet (Psalm 46:10)
- Confess your sin (1 John 1:7)
- Be thankful
- Read deeply and widely
- Share generously
- Watch films that depict Jesus’ ministry
- Share your testimony
- Get out into nature
- Ask for a revelation of His love (Ephesians 3:17-19)
- Make choices that draw you closer to Christ (1 Corinthians 10:23)

Memorize

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22:37-40

**FAMILY
CONVERSATION
STARTERS**

