



# “This is Us” – Pastor Carl Lentz

## Fall Lifegroups | Week #7

### WELCOME & ICEBREAKERS

Welcome to Week #7 of Circle Groups! Those new to the group, please introduce yourself and let us know how you came to join the group.

#### Warm Up Questions:

**Optional:** Recap last week's group challenge. What scriptures did you find that helped you to “fight back” against the enemy this week?

How old were you when you first thought you were in love? Maybe it was an elementary school crush or perhaps a bit more recent. Did you do anything out-of-the-ordinary to make sure the other person knew you liked them? If so, share it with the group.

### MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week, we learned the amazing power of love. Love is a powerful force and motivator. It can cause a mother to risk anything for her children. Love can cause someone to sacrifice time and money to create the perfect moment to ask for another's hand in marriage, and love would cause a loving father to go to whatever lengths necessary to provide for his family. As believers, we get to experience Agape Love - the love of the Father. We have a heavenly father who's love for us was so strong that it compelled him to sacrifice everything so that we would not spend an eternity separated from Him. That same love caused Jesus to lay down his own life for us ... talk about REAL LOVE! Let's dive into God's word and get God's definition of love, then take that love and apply it to our own lives.

### SCRIPTURES

John 13:12-17 | John 3:16 | Rom 13:8-10  
1 John 3:16-18 | 1 John 4:10-12 | 1 Peter 4:7-8

- In this microwave and instant gratification society, it is very easy to get discouraged with the concept presented by the world around us. We are bombarded with incorrect interpretations of what “true love” is and are disillusioned when things are not fairytales like we see in the movie. **Read John 13: 12-17. What things does God's word say about true love that contradicts the versions of love presented by society? In what ways is God's definition better?**
- God's definition of love is stable, true, and should compel us to reach out to others. If we have experienced true, biblical love, our lives must look different than the world around us. The world should be able to see that we are different. Demonstrating God's love to others will oftentimes pull us outside our comfort zones. It may not always be



convenient but living in this way has the power to transform lives. **Read 1 John 3:16-18. If you knew that a person needed something you could easily provide, would you stop to help them?**

**Let's get honest. Have you ever passed up an opportunity to be a blessing to someone because the timing was inconvenient, or the opportunity was not ideal? If you viewed this moment as an opportunity to demonstrate the love of God, how might you have responded differently?**

- God's love is true and provides a constant reminder of how we are to love others. We may not always get it right, but as we strive to love others as Christ loved us, we will begin to look more like Jesus to a lost and dying world. **Think about a person who tests your patience and is not the most pleasant to be around. What if their attitude and approach to life was a result of a lack of love? How might recognizing their need for love change the way you respond to their actions? Do they encounter the love of Christ when they encounter you?**
- The love of Christ blossoms in our lives when choose to acknowledge its impact on our own stories and share that love to those around us. If we are truly guided by Christ's love, we would run to, not run away from those who need love the most. We would love, not judge. We would cover, not expose, and we would celebrate, not condemn. Christ's love in us must be the model by which we reach out to others and must draw us back to Him when we make mistakes. We may not be perfect, but Christ's love can be made perfect within us, and as we experience more of Christ's love, our lives will begin to look more like Him!

**Read 1 John 4:10-12 and 1 Peter 4:7-8. How does these verses speak to you? What comfort zones is Christ's love calling you to challenge? What "multitude of sins" has Christ's love covered in your own life?**

## **CONCLUSION**

According to John 13, "There is no greater love than this, that a man would lay down his life for his friend." If we are to get to this point as a body of Christ, then we must first understand the true context of love, secondly, we must recognize our brother, then have boldness to walk out this commandment of love given to us from our Heavenly Father. Imagine how differently the world would look if we truly loved our neighbor as ourselves? Imagine the changes that we could see in our own lives and in the world around us. What changes do you think would happen in your life? What changes could you see happening in your own family? What about your attitude towards difficult family members or people in your life?

**Challenge:** This week, let's challenge ourselves to "show love" to others no matter the cost. Let's challenge our desire for comfort and be intentional to "show love" to a person this week that may not be acting lovingly towards us. Instead of getting upset, choose love! Be aware of how this action affects both you and them.



## **REMINDERS**

- **Download the Relentless App:** If you haven't done so already, download the Relentless Church App on Google Play or the App store! You can connect with the Bible Challenge, learn about upcoming events, and watch past sermons from one place! We have Youth, Young Adult, Men and Women events coming up soon, so be sure to download the app today!
- **Gospel Challenge:** Join the Relentless Family as we read the Gospels together! We are wrapping up the Gospel of Mark this week, and the book of Luke is up next! You can find the Gospel Challenge as well as info about upcoming events on the App or Relentless Church website.
- **Serve with us:** Show Christ's love to others by serving in the local church. For a complete list of ministries that you can serve with at Relentless Church, visit the Relentless App or online at [ourRelentlessChurch.com/serve](http://ourRelentlessChurch.com/serve)