

Personal/Group Training Guide
Week of 12/23/18

THE SIMPLICITY OF CHRISTMAS

“Wrapped in Love”

- (1) Describe what it means to love unconditionally. Share a personal example of when someone showed you unconditional love.
- (2) Read Matthew 1:18-25. Discuss Joseph’s predicament. How do you see love present in this passage?
- (3) Read Luke 2:1-21. Where do you see love present in Luke’s account of the Christmas story? List as many examples as you can.
- (4) Read John 3:16-17. Try to put into words the level of passion that God has for us, that He would send His son to us - and not to just live on earth, but also to die at the hands of the very ones He came to save.
- (5) Read John 13:34-35. Discuss these verses in light of our calling to love as Christ loved us. What challenges do you experience in loving others unconditionally?
- (6) Read John 15:12-13. We may never have to die for someone else, as Jesus did for us. However, there are other ways to lay down one’s life for another. What might this look like? How can we, as followers of Christ, help one another to love in this way?
- (7) Read Revelation 2:1-7. Discuss the concept of forsaking their first love – Jesus. How can doing so impact our relationship with God? How can it also affect our relationships with others? Why must our love for Christ (our first love) be at the center of our lives?
- (8) Read Colossians 3:11-14. Why must love be what binds all other virtues together? Discuss this in relation to Christmas and the fact that God is love. How does the reality of Jesus’ birth being wrapped in love affect your perspective of Christmas?