

Icebreaker: When considering “Jesus’ main platform,” what is the first word that comes to your mind?

Sermon Title – The Jesus Platform – Start Here – John 3:16

Group Discussion

Read John 3:16-17 – Jesus loves everybody; He loves sinners; He loves foreigners; He loves enemies; He loves disciples. Share specific ways in which you have received-experienced this kind of love from others. As disciples of Jesus, how can we practice this inclusive love in our daily lives inside and outside the church?

Read I John 4:19-21 – I will love Jesus in response. These verses highlight that our love for Jesus and others should be a response to His love for us. What are tangible-real ways we can show our love for Jesus in our daily lives? How can we overcome the challenges faced when trying to “everyone,” especially those we may find difficult to love for various reasons?

Read John 15:12-13 & 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 – I will love like Jesus loves. What can we learn from these verses concerning the validity and genuineness of Jesus' love? What are attitudes or biases we might need to change to genuinely love others in the way Jesus does? Discuss strategies for how to achieve this love.

Read I John 4:16-17 & Romans 5:5 – I will love what/who Jesus loved. Discuss ways we can align our hearts with Jesus in today's culture. Jeff said: “We will freely call good-good and evil-evil.” What are ways we can demonstrate loving behaviors in a hostile world while also adhering to, and promoting, biblical truths?

Read John 13:34-35 & I John 4:7-8 – I will learn to display love as a Jesus follower. Discuss what it means to you, in your own life, to display love in such a way that others will know you are a follower of Jesus. How will others know you are a child of God and disciple of Jesus?

Spiritual Discipline:

Take time this week to pray specifically for the Lord to minister in your life helping you to discern biblical truth in a culture where truth is purposefully distorted. Also, review our additional sermon resources that support this message. They are located on our Church Center app at: **Church Center / Home / Sermon Resources**

Action Steps:

In recent months, 67% of people new to Mt. Gilead were invited by someone; this is an encouraging statistic for creating an “invitation culture” at Mt. Gilead. As begin this sermon series on **The Jesus Platform**, consider inviting someone new to church (e.g., a family member, neighbor, acquaintance, co-worker).