**CROSS-EXAMINING TRUE CONVERSION**

**1 John 2:3-11**

**THE BIG IDEA: A person who has truly been converted by Christ will obey God and love others.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ TO GOD DEMONSTRATES TRUE CONVERSION**

* *“This is how we know that we know him: if we keep his commands. 4 The one who says, ‘I have come to know him,’ and yet doesn’t keep his commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.**”* (1 John 2:3-4)
* **Obedience to God does not bring salvation in our lives, but obedience to God does show that we are truly born again.**
* Jesus - *““If you love me, you will keep my commands.”* (John 14:15)
* **Our fellowship with God is rooted in our obedience to Him.**
* *“Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. 6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned.”* (John 15:4-6)
* *“But whoever keeps his word, truly in him the love of God is made complete. This is how we know we are in him: 6 The one who says he remains in him should walk just as he walked.”* (1 John 2:5-6)
* **Questions: Do I really love God? How am I demonstrating my love for Him?**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ FOR OTHERS DEMONSTRATES TRUE CONVERSION**

* *“Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old command that you have had from the beginning. The old command is the word you have heard. 8 Yet I am writing you a new command, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. 9 The one who says he is in the light but hates his brother or sister is in the darkness until now. 10 The one who loves his brother or sister remains in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 11 But the one who hates his brother or sister is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and doesn’t know where he’s going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.” (1 Jn 2:7-11)*
* *“Do not take revenge or bear a grudge against members of your community, but love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.”*
* **If we truly love God, the direct result of that is obedience in loving others.**
* *“He said to him, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. 38 This is the greatest and most important command. 39 The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. 40 All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.’”* (Matthew 22:37-40)
* **Loving others is not rooted in expectations and conditions generated by us, but in the selfless, grace-filled, enduring love prescribed by God.**
* *“Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant, 5 is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs. 6 Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends.”* (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a)
* **As Christians, our primary responsibilities are to love God supremely and love others unconditionally.**

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Ice Breaker: Describe a time when someone did something for you that made you feel really loved?**

**Start Thinking:**

* + **What do you learn about God/Jesus from 1 John 2:3-11?**
  + **How would you explain to others that obedience to God is freeing rather than oppressive?**
  + **How do obedience and the assurance of our salvation blend together?**
  + **Why does truly knowing God lead to obedience and to His commands?**

**Digging Deeper:**

* + **Why is it not possible to rightly love others without loving God supremely?**
  + **Consider areas of your life where you are not being obedient to God’s Word. What steps can you take to correct those areas?**
  + **Why is hatred, and unforgiveness, contrary to God’s Word?**
  + **How can you live out love in such a way that demonstrates you truly know God?**
  + **What is your big takeaway from this message?**