

# *Known By*

## *Known by Our Love (August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020)*

### PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- If you missed it, watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.
- Review the learning objective to focus the conversation, read the primary scriptures as a group, summarize the main points, ask the questions, and use supporting texts to enhance the concepts.

### DISCUSSION

#### **Opening Prayer:** (1-2 minutes)

*In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's a suggestion of how your group can invite God into your time together.*

Thank the Father for loving us so much that He came to us in the person of Jesus to sacrifice Himself on our behalf while we were still sinners! Pray that as we navigate the chaotic waters of our cultural moment that we would humbly listen and obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we seek to love one another, just as you have loved us! Pray that the Holy Spirit would give us the words to speak, show us opportunities to serve our neighbors, and continue to transform us into the likeness of Jesus so that we might lay down our lives for one another and gain the fulfillment of living your kingdom way!

#### **Discussion:** (45-60 minutes)

#### What's Going on This Week

This Sunday, Liza Landrum (Director of Women's Ministry), Pastor Austin Foxworthy (Pastor of Families), and Pastor Randy Odom (Pastor of Senior Adults) led us into the first week of our new mini-series titled *Known By*. This new series is inspired by *John 13:35* which says that everyone will know that we are disciples of Jesus if we love one another. This week, the trio of speakers highlight a variety of scriptures that point to the way things were in the garden of God, the way things are now considering our sinful human nature, Jesus' work of salvation on the cross, and the Holy Spirit's supernatural equipping of the church to actively and intentionally love one another as Jesus loved us!

**“The dress code of a follower of Jesus is not bling, it's not a pedigree, and it's not fancy perfume, the dress code of a Christ follower is love.” – Pastor Randy Odom**

#### Suggested Questions

**Check-In:** *Icebreaker* – What is the legacy that you would like to leave behind ?

**Study Tip:** Our new series will discuss what it means to be known by our *love* for one another. If John 13:35 is such an important indicator of how we ought to live as God’s church, it might be helpful to define Jesus’ terms. The term for *love* in the original language of the scriptures is *αγαπη* (agape). There have been many helpful resources written on what *agape* should look like in our lives, so I encourage you to check them out. This week, check out this video as a group! As you reflect on this week’s study guide, consider how you can intentionally show *agape* love to those in your Community Group as well as those who are the most difficult to love!



**Objective #1: Identify what’s wrong (sin), God’s ideal (garden), and how to reconcile (love)**

*Primary Texts:* *Genesis 1:1—2:3, 2:16-17, 3:1-7, 22-24; 1 John 4:7-20* – Liza begins this week’s sermon by talking about how all of humanity is known by SIN. She compares our current state of affairs to the paradise that God had originally created in which sin did not exist. As you reflect on the creation story in Genesis, what are some of the major problems in your life and/or in this world that you wish could return to the way things were in God’s garden paradise? What stands out to you in the 1 John passage as you think about how you can become an agent of God’s reconciliation?

*Supporting texts:* (*Law Exposes Sin*) *Exodus 20:1-17; Rom. 3:9-20; 7:7*

**Objective #2: Identify the obstacles of loving one another and then press into how Jesus’ love inspires**

*Primary Texts:* *John 15:1-17; Romans 5:1-11; Ephesians 2:1-10;*– Next, Pastor Austin talks about some of the challenges of showing love in today’s society and reminds us that we as Christians are the recipients of Jesus’ work of salvation on the cross on behalf of sinners; the ultimate expression of love. What are some of the modern-day challenges that you experience when it comes to loving others in the same way Jesus loved you? Share one concept that stood out to you about God’s love from each of the passages listed above!

**Objective #3: Explore ways you can “put on” love by cooperating with the Holy Spirit this week!**

*Primary Texts:* *John 13:34-35; Col. 3:1-17* – Finally, Pastor Randy challenges us to remember that God’s expectation for us is to cooperate with His Holy Spirit as He supernaturally empowers us to live a lifestyle of love and forgiveness. This is what is most important, most difficult, and most like Him! As a group, write down the people in your life who needs to experience God’s love this week! How will you “put on” the Spirit of love in your interactions with this person? Along with prayer, how can the group support you in this effort?

*Supporting Texts:* (*Equipped to Love*) *1 Cor. 13:1-13; 2 Cor. 5:16-21; Gal. 5:16-26; 2 Peter 1:3-7*

**Closing Prayer:** (5-10 minutes)

*In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.*

Thank our Heavenly Father for revealing His love through his selfless and exemplary life and his sacrificial death on the cross! Ask that the Holy Spirit would continue to equip us to live, love, and forgive like Jesus in the various hardships and situations we face daily. Finally, pray that we as a church would unite as a people who are *known by* our love for one another simply because we are abiding in you as the source of love knowing that we can only love because you first loved us!

### **THROUGHOUT THE WEEK**

**-Host a Watch Party:** At 3Crosses, we are excited to introduce [Watch Parties](#) for our Sunday Services. If you already have a social bubble meeting on Sundays, great! Be sure to let us know about it! Feel free to take a picture and send it in to AJ at [avanegas@3crosses.org](mailto:avanegas@3crosses.org). If you are interested in launching a new Watch Party and *safely* opening up your home to new guests and those looking for community, let us know [HERE](#)

**-Stay up to date with Coronavirus Ministry Opportunities:** Help us out by pointing the people in your Community Group to [3Crosses.org/coronavirus](https://3crosses.org/coronavirus). If you or anyone in your group is looking to serve food in our pantry, access spiritual care, or seek financial assistance, you can find all you need at [3Crosses.org/neighborhood](https://3crosses.org/neighborhood)

**- Find out how to pray for two people in your group this week!** Pray that the members of your group would rest knowing that Jesus is on the throne and that He is working to reconcile all things back to Himself!

**-Community Group Fall 2020:** We will be launching a new Community Group Season starting August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020! For more information about joining a group, leading a group, or general inquiries, contact AJ at [avanegas@3crosses.org](mailto:avanegas@3crosses.org)