

## Outline & Discussion Questions

Video is available online at [messages.visitccc.com](http://messages.visitccc.com)

### Connection

Take 10-15 minutes and do a connection starter as a group. 1. ***Have you ever gotten stuck with your car in the sand, mud, or other material? Tell us about your experience.*** 2. ***How do you decompress?***

### Cheer and Challenge

Have each person share a high and low from this past week.

### Content

*The way we are going to get through tough times, confusion, and unnerving situations is to have the character qualities that rise about the circumstances.*

- Read Jeremiah 17:7-8 - What differentiates a tree that is “thriving” from one which is just “surviving?” How can we live like trees that thrive? Read John 15:4 to find the answer.
- Read Galatians 5:22-23 - List the 9 character qualities that make up the fruit of the Spirit.

### *Love and Light*

- To explore the first character quality of love, read 1 John 1:5 and 1 John 3:11. What are the fundamental messages of these verses?

*Light and love are being paired together so we can get more clarification on what God's love looks like.*

- Read 1 John 3:16 - What does real love look like? Continue reading verses 17-18 - In what way should you demonstrate love like Jesus did? Has any opportunity come up in your life where you were able to do something like this? Share it with the group.

### *Love and Belief*

- Read 1 John 3:23 - What two actions are combined into one command? What is the Disciple John trying to help us understand?
- Share, if you'd like, what great things you have yearned to do for God.

- Read John 6:28-29 - How did Jesus respond to the disciples who wanted to do great things for God? In what way is Jesus' answer a key to the Christian life?

The process works like this:

You **BELIEVE** in Jesus...the Holy Spirit comes into you...God makes you look like Jesus in **LOVE**.

### *Love and God*

- How do you think God's love is tied to the reason why He created our world?
- Read 1 John 4:7 and 12 - How can our world see our loving but invisible God?
- Jesus' death on the cross was love in action. What does this mean to you?

### **Commitment**

How will you live out the truth from these passages this week? Take time to do the following:

- "Let the air out of your tires" so you can navigate the unstable terrain of this world. Get alone, draw back and connect with God. Pray that you will respond to the chaos and confusion around you with solutions instead of outrage.
- Thank God that He has supplied this fruit of love, that He is love and is giving you love.
- Ask God, "Is there anyone in my life I'm unwilling to love?"

### **Close**

Pray together and for each other.



Spend a minute thinking through how you could serve an unbelieving friend this week. Who comes to mind? How could you show them love in a practical way?

### **Digging Deeper**

1. Write out Galatians 5:22-23 and practice memorizing it.
2. Read Galatians 5:16-25. Make a two column list for what life look likes if lived **without the Spirit** and what life looks like **with the Spirit**.
3. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, spending time thinking how God's love is different than the world's love.