

Pastoral Care

John 13:34-35; Gal 6:1-5

Key Points:

Jane talked about what it looks like to love one another as Christians, noting that we are called to love one another in the same way that God loves us - and in this way, others will see that we are God's disciples.

She defined the way that God loves us as abundant and self-sacrificing, and went on to talk about how this relates to us: first that we are called to welcome others, and reach out to others whether or not we know them. Second, that we are called to lay ourselves down for other people, and put them first, even when it's difficult. All of this requires trust in God and his power working through us - we can't do it in our own strength!

Questions:

1. How do you think of your church family at Springfield, and who it encompasses? Is it a few people; your small group; the whole church?
2. What has been your experience of being loved and known at Springfield, or at other churches you've been a part of? (What has been good / less good?)
3. How would you describe the kind of love God shows us? What aspects are particularly relevant in how we're called to love one another?
4. Do you find you easily draw parallels between the kind of love God shows us and the kind that we are called to show to other people?
5. When is it easiest or most difficult to love others at church?
6. Do you ever feel 'lost in the crowd' at church? Are you aware of other people who struggle? How might we respond to either or both these things?
7. How do you relate to the call to be accountable to others? (Do you correct other people? Do you let them correct you?)
8. What are the practical ways in which we can bear one another's burdens? Within our community, whose burdens should we be bearing?
9. How might we go further in loving one another as a church?