

### **1 - The "Nutshell" Summary**

The sermon suggests that if John 3:16 is the "Gospel in a nutshell," then John 15:12 is "Jesus' commands in a nutshell." How does viewing "loving one another" as a commandment rather than a suggestion change the way you approach difficult people in your life?

### **2 - The Vertical and the Horizontal**

Jamie Brown described the cross as having a vertical plane (reconciling us to God) and a horizontal plane (reconciling us to one another). Why is it impossible to truly have the vertical relationship without the horizontal one? What happens to a Christian's witness when they try to keep the vertical love but ignore the horizontal love?

### **3 - Defining The Will for Good**

The sermon defines the love of the cross as "willing good for one another, as Jesus willed good for you." Thinking of someone you currently find it difficult to love, what does it look like to "will their good" in a practical sense this week, even if your feelings haven't caught up yet?

### **4 - The Loophole Test**

We often look for "loopholes" to avoid loving certain people (e.g., political enemies or people we simply dislike). Romans 5:10 reminds us that God loved us while we were still His enemies. Which category of people are you most tempted to exclude from Jesus' command, and how does the Gospel "do surgery" on that excuse?

### **5 - From Servant to Friend**

Jesus moves us from the status of servant to friend because He has shared the Father's heart with us. How does knowing you are a friend of God - chosen and known by Him - give you the emotional and spiritual security needed to love hard people?

### **6 - Identifying Citrus Greening**

The sermon used the illustration of the Florida orange industry being choked out by "greening disease" from the inside. Are there internal "diseases"—such as bitterness, political tribalism, or old grudges—that are currently choking out the fruit of love in your life? How can you invite the Gardener (the Father) to prune those areas?

### **7 - Active Response**

Jesus says he "appointed you that you should go and bear fruit." What does that look like for you this week?

### **Key Quote for Reflection**

"If God could love hard 'me,' then I can love hard 'you.'"