

THE NEW COMMANDMENT

JOHN 13:34-35: ³⁴“I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. ³⁵This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other.”

JOHN 15:9-17: ⁹“As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. ¹²This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than to give up one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I don’t call you servants any longer, because servants don’t know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because everything I heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You didn’t choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you could go and produce fruit and so that your fruit could last. As a result, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. ¹⁷I give you these commandments so that you can love each other.”

- How does “love each other just as I have loved you” provide an outline for how Christians live?

- How do “love” and “commands” balance each other out? How do they make living for God more manageable?

- Using the images those in your group selected in the opening activity, work together to tell a story of how all these people found each other and worked together to share God’s love?

- What are some ways we could be “known by our love for each other”?

Permission is granted to the purchaser to photocopy this page for use with Confirm. © 2016 Cokesbury