**Small Groups Material - Week 4**

**Loving one another**

**Welcome**

Name one thing that makes you feel loved.

Name one thing that makes you feel unloved.

**Worship**

Remember things God has done which show that he loves you.

Either, share these with the group and then thank him for them.

Or, go straight into prayer, thanking God for these things.

*(Optional)* John Rutter’s ‘For the beauty of the earth’ would be lovely to listen to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JVQFEgT7E6c&list=RDJVQFEgT7E6c>

or you could sing, ‘Bless the Lord (10,000 reasons)’: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSxocnIaN0A

**Word**

**Read John 13. 1-17, 34 - 35**

1. What are the three things that Jesus knows? (1-3, 11).  How does this affect the way he acts towards his disciples? vs4-5 What makes what he does so amazing?

2. What does this teach you about service and identity? *(Some people serve* ***to gain*** *identity rather than* ***from knowing*** *their identity. This can lead to burn out.)* What gives you identity?

3. What is the principle that Jesus gives his disciples in vs 12 -15? Put it in your own words. Tie this in with vs 34 - 35.

4. What does it mean in our context to ‘wash each other's feet’?  (Try and tease this out; think of examples) What do we find most difficult when it comes to serving others? What do we find most difficult in letting other people show love to us? What is the connection between ‘serving one another’ and ‘loving one another’?

**Read Colossians 3. 12-17**

1. Who does Paul say we are (12a)? What does his description of us mean?

2. What are the implications of this (12-14)? Pick out one characteristic that most strikes you in terms of loving each other? Think of ways you could put it into practice. Be specific.

3. What do you think is the basis for thanksgiving? *(Notice it comes three times. vs 15,16,17)* How does ‘Thanksgiving’ help build a loving community?

**Witness**

Jesus says that our loving community will have an impact on unbelievers. If God is asking us to be marked by our love for one another, how can we achieve this in our group?

Is there an ‘action point’ for me?