

# 40 DAYS OF FRUITFULNESS



## Small group discussion questions

### LOVE

1. Love is the foundation of every other fruit of the Spirit because it is at the very heart of the character of God. Reflect on 1 John 4:7-12. What stands out for you in this passage and what do you think it means that “God is love”?

*1 John 4:7-13:*

*“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”*

2. How loving would you say you are right now?
3. When are you most loving and when are you least loving? How can an awareness of this shape your behaviour to become more loving?
4. Jesus told His disciples that the identifying mark of being His followers should be love. See John 13 below. Why do you think Christians and the church so often fail in this so miserably?

*John 12:34-35: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

5. Jesus summed up all the law in the Great Commandment: to love God with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength and to love our neighbours as ourselves (Matthew 22:36-40). Love therefore has to be the filter through which we strive to see the world and that informs our thinking, decisions and behaviour. How is love for God, others and yourself informing your decisions and the way you live?
6. Why do you think Jesus commanded us to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength? What do each of these really mean?
7. What is making it difficult to love your neighbours / others at present?
8. Why do you think we are commanded to love others as we love ourselves? How has the world distorted self-love and what is the correct way to understand this?
9. What is one thing you will commit to doing to actively expand your capacity for love?
10. What has stood out for you / been challenging for you about the challenges to love this week? Do you have a story to share about how God has grown or taught you more about love?