

IN A NUTSHELL

Jesus deeply loves the Church – so much so that He calls her His Bride! He gave His life up for her, that He might provide a way for all the believers who make up the Church to experience an eternal love-relationship with Him. Jesus asks us to *love on* one another in preparation for us to be purified and ready for His return.

TALK IT OUT

- **Read John 13:34.** Describe, with detail, the love of God. How has His love impacted your life? What are some ways God expects us to love one another? Who is one person you need to more intentionally show God's love to?
- **Read 2 Corinthians 11:2 & Revelation 19:6-9.** What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the word "Bride"? What is the first thing that comes to Jesus' mind? Why does Jesus delight in the righteous deeds of the saints?
- **Read Ephesians 5:22-27 & John 13:4-17.** What does Christ's love for the Church look like, in detail? What does it look like for the church to submit to Christ? How does Jesus' washing the disciples feet give us insight as to how to love the Church?
- **Read I John 3:16.** What things keep us from loving our brothers and sisters in Christ this way?? What are you currently doing to make the Bride ready for Christ's return? Is there a specific way you feel compelled to *love on* the Church, either individually or as a life group? How are you going to make that idea a reality?

DRAW IT OUT

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."
– Romans 12:10 NIV

The original Greek word Paul used when He commanded the Church to "be devoted" to one another is *philostorgos* (pronounced fil-os'-tor-gos). This word only appears once in the Bible, and denotes strong and tender familial affection, as children would experience from loving parents. Just as children are to honor and respect their parents, we likewise are expected to show love through not only our actions, but also through our respectful attitudes toward one another. As we daily choose to *love on* the Church this way, we will help to prepare the Bride for the return of Christ!

LIVE IT OUT

A very practical way to *love on* the Church is to serve her! To get started, stop by a Grow kiosk for more information on ways you can serve, or check out our website.