

w/b 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016

## ONE-ANOTHER-ING SERIES: LIVING SACRIFICES FOR GOD AND FOR EACH OTHER

### LAUNCH

Think of a famous book, film or play involving sacrifice? What was the sacrifice? For whom was it made and why? What was so moving about the sacrifice ( once you have all finished sharing feel free to vote on which was the most moving ( optional ) )

### DISCOVERY

Read the following scripture:

Ephesians 5:2 *And walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

Spend some time thanking God for his Son's sacrifice on the cross for us ( feel free to also sing a song of worship that focuses on this wonderful truth )

Also read:

Luke 7:47 *Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven--as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.*

When Jesus refers to someone who has been forgiven little what exactly does he mean?

Is he suggesting that some people need less forgiveness than others because they've sinned less?

What is the link between receiving forgiveness and loving others?

Give an illustration of what this might look like in practice.

Is there a danger that longstanding Christians have a reduced sense of need for forgiveness and as a result love less? If so what can be done about it?

Read Romans 12:1-5

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

*<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup>For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

In verse 2 of Romans 12, we often think that conforming to the pattern of this world refers to morality but in the context of the passage it may refer more to sacrificial service. What is the attitude of the world to self sacrifice and in what way does the bible completely reverse this attitude?

In what areas of life can you find yourself being decidedly unsacrificial?

How might the Holy Spirit be softening your heart in these areas?

Sacrifice sounds like something to be endured rather than enjoyed. In what ways is the opposite in fact true? (feel free to answer using this passage, other scriptures or indeed you own personal experience)

How does the practice of living sacrifice help us function more effectively as part of the body of Christ?

### APPLICATION

Name one very practical and specific task for the coming week (it can be small or big) where the Spirit is calling you to sacrifice.

Pray for one another that you do this joyfully ( or even hilariously as some translations suggest ) and in the power of the Spirit.