HomeGroup Discussion Guide
November 14-20, 2021 – The Soul of Community – a Loving Community

Devotion: In the Gospel of John, Jesus shares about abiding in the Vine. He teaches that those who remain in him will bear much fruit. For those that do not, they will wither, be picked up, and burned. It is in our abiding that we remain in His love. It is in that love that we can extend to those around us.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to be a community that loves. We are instructed to love Jesus, to love one another, and to love those around us. I like to visualize this as a ripple effect. If you drop a stone into the water, you can see the rings form as the ripple moves further and further out. In the same way, when we love the Lord, that overflows into love for those close to us and continues to grow to reach those around us.

In Romans 12 we see Paul admonishing the Roman Church to the saving grace of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He is urging them in verses 4 & 5, "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ, we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Essentially, we cannot live, or even function without one another. Our love for each other allows us to lean into one another and thrive! Let our love be the life source that connects each member to the fullness of all God has created us to be.

Scripture – Read John 15:9-15

•   Question 1: How do we love those that are different than us?
•   Question 2: What does it mean to be a loving community?
•   Question 3: How can the love we experience in our community reach outside of the four walls of the church?

How is it with your soul? (Go around and share as you look back to the "good and the bad" of this week and then look forward to what you can do or where you want to see God move this week.)

o   Where have you seen God this week?
o   Where have you struggled this week?
o   How can you be open to God/the Holy Spirit this week?

Prayers