

The Gospel Project for Adults, Spring 2018
Interactive Teaching Tips for Adults, Session 5

Introduction: *Help your group members get engaged with the lesson.*

“Too many Christians want to change the world, not because they love the world but because they hate the world.”

Read the statement above to your group members. Ask them the following questions: “Is this statement accurate? Why or why not? Give examples. What is your motive for wanting to change the world?”

Allow 2-3 people to share their thoughts with the rest of the group.

[Source: Leonard Sweet and Frank Viola, *Jesus Manifesto: Restoring the Supremacy and Sovereignty of Jesus Christ* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2010), 118.]

Part 1: *Engage using “Think-Pair-Share” technique.*

The world has always opposed God’s people. Show your class the video “Naboth’s Vineyard” available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPekrS06ySM> (5 minutes, 18 seconds).

As the group watches the video, ask them to take notice of how the ungodly (Ahab, Jezebel) opposed the godly in this story (Naboth).

Think-Pair-Share: “**Think** for 30 seconds on the meaning. Why did Jezebel act the way she did toward Naboth? Discuss this in **pairs** with a person on your left or right who is not your spouse.” (Pause for 60 seconds.) Call on 3-4 pairs to **share** one idea.

Part 3: *Help your group members grasp the concept of love as an action.*

Have a student read the following:

A young man sent a love letter to his girlfriend. It read: “Darling, I’d climb the highest mountain, sail the widest ocean, cross the hottest desert just to see you. P.S.—I’ll be over Saturday night if it doesn’t rain.”

We chuckle at his fickleness, but feel bad for the girl who, like all of us, longs for love in action, not empty promises.

John said that Jesus Christ showed us what true love is when “He laid down His life for us.” But John continued, “We also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” (1 Jn. 3:16).

The Greek word used for love in 1 John 3:16 is agape. This kind of love is characterized by sacrifice. It is a love based on the will, not on emotions. It’s not a feeling subject to the whims of our convenience. It is a decision to love another despite the cost.

Laying down our lives for others usually doesn’t mean dying. Often it costs little more than stopping what we’re doing and entering someone’s world of need. I once felt prompted by the Holy Spirit to stop scrubbing my kitchen floor to visit a neighbor. She later accepted Christ, in part due to the friendship we had established during that visit.

Don’t miss small opportunities to love by waiting for big ones. With agape love, even small acts of love are big.

Love in deed is love indeed!

Ask for insights from 2-3 group members.

[Source: Joanie Yoder, “Love in Action,” Our Daily Bread, October 24, 1996, accessed March 29, 2018, <https://odb.org/1996/10/24/love-in-action>.]

Conclusion: Challenge for application.

It is easy to do the “right thing” but not have the right motive. Instruct your group members to break into groups of 3-4 and read Mark 12:28-34 to them. Then ask the following questions:

- What does Jesus identify as the greatest commandment?

- What is the second greatest?
- What should our motive be for obeying God's commands?

Encourage them to examine their lives in light of these truths, confess and forsake sin if the Holy Spirit exposes it, and thank God for His love and His laws.

Teaching Tip of the Week

One of the ways to help participants understand new material or challenging concepts is to provide them with one or more analogies and/or word pictures that help them make the connection between something they are familiar with to something with which they are not familiar.

Examine the following passages to get a glimpse of how the Master Teacher did it: Matthew 4:19; 9:9-17; John 10:1-10. In your teaching, look for comparisons and examples from daily life to really help your group members “get” the material.