



# Discussion Guide

"A Loving Picture"

Week of 5/20/2012

The Point: Without Self-Sacrifice, "Love is only Self-Centered!"

1 John 3:16-18

## Discussion Questions

Remember to be intentional with the c3 discipleship process each month

- What are two things that stood out to you from this week's Point? (they can be silly, serious, stupid, or spiritual)
- What is your favorite way to eat beef? How about eggs?
- What is the difference between the level of commitment of the chicken vs. the cow in a steak & eggs (or Royal Red Robin) scenario?
- What is the biggest sacrifice that you've ever made for someone or that someone made for you?
- Read 1 John 3:16-18. How is Jesus an example of how we are to love? Do you think it's realistic? Why or why not?
- Looking at the James passages on back, how would James describe the cow & chicken based on their work vs. their words? Why?
- Have your group discuss the irony of Luke 10:30-36 (a Jew rescued by a Samaritan!) and how that was an example of sacrificial love.
- Which obstacle to sacrifice love (excuses, "enough", elitism, or "expect to") is the most common for you? Why do think that is?
- Have you accepted Jesus sacrificial love for you? If not, what is holding you back?

## Thinking Outside the Box

As a springboard for this week's discussion, eat Royal Red Robin burgers with your group (which are hamburgers with an egg on top-go to [tinyurl.com/mc3ALovingPicture](http://tinyurl.com/mc3ALovingPicture) and scroll down to see it in action). After dinner (or at least wait until dessert so you don't completely gross people out!), discuss the different commitment levels that a cow(beef) vs. a chicken(egg) must make to the Royal Red Robin burger.

## Bible References

**1 John 3:16-18(NIV)** <sup>16</sup>This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup>If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be that person? <sup>18</sup>Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7(NLT)** <sup>4</sup> Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud<sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.<sup>6</sup> It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.<sup>7</sup> Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

**James 2:14-18(NLT)** <sup>14</sup> What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? <sup>15</sup> Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, <sup>16</sup> and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? <sup>17</sup> So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. <sup>18(NIV)</sup> But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

**James 4:17(NIV84)** <sup>17</sup> Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

**Luke 10:30-36(NIV)** <sup>30</sup> In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.<sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.<sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.<sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.<sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.<sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'..."