

John 13:34-35

“Jesus: Turning Our World Upside-Down”

Scripture: John 13:34-35

Memory Verse: John 13:35 “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Lesson Focus: This is our last week looking at how Jesus turns the world upside down. In this lesson we will look at how Jesus calls all of His followers to be game-changers in their own world, turning it upside-down with His *agape* love.

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of Barnabus Showing Love, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring It Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st & 2nd: Love God, Love Others

Starter Activity: Game Changers

We will keep all of the kids in the Summit Room for our starter activity.

“Game changers” is a term used to describe people with significant influence. In sports, it describes exceptional athletes that completely change the opponent’s game-plan. When they are out there in the game, the other team has to consider that “game changer” more than anyone else because of the powerful affect they have on the whole game.

Q: Who remembers who the quarterback of the Denver Broncos was the last time they won the Super Bowl?

A: Peyton Manning! He was a game changer. Before Peyton Manning, the Broncos were just average. But once he joined the team, the Broncos immediately **dominated**.

Q: How many of you have seen the movie “*How to Train Your Dragon*”? The story in the movie pits dragons and Vikings in a never-ending war.

Q: Does anyone remember how Hiccup was a “game changer” in that war? [Now play the scene of the movie]

Hiccup realized that Vikings and dragons could get along. In fact, his discovery leads to the dragons and Vikings no longer being at war with one another. This turned **THEIR WORLD UPSIDE DOWN!**

The last two weeks we have seen how Jesus was a game changer who **TURNED OUR WORLD UPSIDE DOWN**. We will take a look at how he challenges His followers to go and do the same!

Bible Study:

First let's review what we have covered the last couple of weeks.

John 13:1: It says here that Jesus loved His disciples to the very end.

Q: What kind of love is this? *Agape* love!

Q: What is *agape* love? A love that costs you something! A love that is so amazing and “game-changing” that it TURNS PEOPLES WORLDS UPSIDE DOWN!

This isn't just Jesus though that has such love.

Q: What is the most famous or well-known verse in all of the Bible?

A: **John 3:16!** *For God so Agape-LOVED the world, that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life.*

God the Father has the same *agape* love for you and me that He gave Jesus Christ to us that through His death on the cross we might become friends of God!

We must first understand and believe in God's *agape* love for us in the gospel before we go any further.

John 13:15: Jesus said he has set an example for His followers to do likewise.

Q: What was it that Jesus did? Wash their feet!

Q: Why was this such a “game-changing” moment?

A: Because it **showed** this *agape* love of God. Jesus didn't just say “I love you”, but He showed it and proved it. * This is that *agape* love in action that puts the needs of others before your own needs. And this is exactly what Jesus did by washing their feet and then going to the cross to die.

Jesus's *agape* love completely TURNED THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN. It should also turn YOUR LIFE UPSIDE DOWN when you consider the *agape* love that Jesus showed you when He went to the cross for your sins.

But now what? Let's look at what Jesus says in v. 34.

John 13:34a: Jesus gives a “new” commandment.

Q: What is a commandment?

A: It is an order or instruction that someone in authority gives.

Elsewhere in the Bible, there is something called the “10 commandments”.

Q: Who knows what some of those are?

Teachers: These are in **Exodus 20** and while we won't go through them in detail, review them beforehand so you can correctly respond to the kids!

Elsewhere in the Bible, someone asked Jesus what the “greatest” commandment was.

Read Matthew 22:36-40: Jesus “simplified” the commandments from the OT into two.

Q: What word was common between those two commandments?

A: **Agape** love! **Agape** God and **agape** others! The whole Bible teaches us about love!

John 13:34b: Now Jesus sharpens His commandments even further here.

Q: What is this commandment that Jesus gives here?

A: That believers, followers of Jesus, would “**agape**” love one another! Followers of Jesus are not only to **agape** love others, but ESPECIALLY other believers in the church!

Q: Why do you think Jesus gave this “new” commandment to believers?

A: He tells us in the next verse!

John 13:35: By this **agape** love that they show each other people will take notice!

Guess what? That is exactly what happened after Jesus ascended into heaven. The early church, the first believers and followers of Jesus Christ, became a group identified by one thing: **agape** love. * They loved Jesus, they loved each other, and they loved others.

Q: How do you think people responded when they saw this **agape** love in action?

A: They became Christians and the church grew like wildfire! They had their world TURNED UPSIDE DOWN!

Read **Acts 17:6.** Did you hear how the apostle Paul was described? This **agape** love of God preached through the gospel, and then practiced by the church, was a game-changer that changed the world!

For 2000 years, church’s like RMC have been a place where people come and they see **agape** love in action. * This is to be a place where you can come and you know that you are loved and cared for. If RMC is not doing that, then we are not being the church that Jesus Christ commanded us to be!

Read 1 John 4:11. Before God will use us as game-changers that will TURN THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN, we must first understand, believe, and receive this **agape** love that the Father and Jesus Christ have for us.

Q: But there is one other Person in the Trinity we haven’t mentioned yet. Who is that?

A: The Holy Spirit! We’ve talked about the Father and the Son having this game-changing **agape** love. But what about the Holy Spirit?

Read **Galatians 5:22.** What is the fruit of the Spirit? That same **agape** love! *

Key Point: Now you might be thinking, “it is hard to love others.” You are right! You cannot do it by your own power! But know that the same Spirit that TURNED THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN through Peter, Paul, and the early church is the same Spirit that wants to use you!

Your job is to keep your eyes on Jesus by faith! Remember the game-changing *agape* love that He has for you. Pray that the Holy Spirit would empower you to go and show love to others!

Teachers: Finish off the lesson by taking a ball and throwing it out among the kids. Whoever catches the ball has to provide an example of how they can show love to someone this week as a response to Jesus’s love for them. Stress that this is not to earn God’s favor, but as a response to what God has done for you. Then have them throw the ball up for someone else to catch. Encourage them to be specific and real.

Some example ideas (bring your ideas too!):

- Write your grandma/grandpa a letter telling them you love them
- Offer to clean up your brother/sisters room for them
- Hold open the door for your Mom or Dad
- Make cookies for your neighbor
- Offer to help your Mom or Dad clean the kitchen
- Pick some dandelions and give them to someone who will like them

For 3rd-5th graders, we will do this in the large group to introduce the idea and then we will dismiss them back to their classrooms where you can do this as a small group.

Bring It Home

(Devotional for the Family)

Lesson Theme: “Jesus: Turning Our World Upside-Down”

Scripture: John 13:34-35

Memory Verse: John 13:35 “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Teachers/Parents: We introduced our lesson by talking about game-changers. We described game-changers as those who everyone takes notice of because of the powerful affect they have on those around them. Can you think of any people who are modern-day game-changers?

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Read **John 13:13-15**. How is what Jesus said and did here “game-changing” for the disciples? Furthermore, how is what Jesus accomplished on the cross “game-changing” for you?
- 2) Read **1 John 4:11**. In class we stressed that we must first understand and receive the game-changing *agape* love of God through faith before we can effectively go out and follow Jesus’s commands to serve and love. Why is this order so important?
- 3) Read **John 13:34**. What do you think is “new” about this commandment of Jesus?
- 4) What are some ways that you show love to one another in your family? What are some ways that you receive love from one another in your family?
- 5) Read **John 13:35**. This verse provides one very important mark of a true church. What is it? What are some ways you can take ownership of this commandment at RMC?
- 6) Read **Acts 17:6**. How were these early Christians described? How were they able to do this? (Hint: **Read Acts 1:8** and **Galatians 5:22**)
- 7) The same Holy Spirit that empowered the early church to turn the world upside down is alive in the church today! With His help, what are some ways that you can show this game-changing *agape* love to those around you this week?