

## **“BIG BUTS OF THE BIBLE”**

***Dear children, let us not love with words or speech BUT with actions and in truth.  
(1 John 3:18)***

### **One Huge Call to Action**

Jesus said: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35)

### **Three Small Calls to Action**

#### **The action of: listening**

*My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. (James 1:19-20 - NIV)*

#### **The action of: praying**

*First of all, I ask you to pray for everyone. Ask God to help and bless them all, and tell God how thankful you are for each of them. (1 Timothy 2:1)*

#### **The action of: serving**

*Each of you has been blessed with one of God’s many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well. (1 Peter 4:10 - CEV)*

**What action will you take this coming week to love others?**

## Devotional/Discussion Guide

- Begin with prayer. If you are in a group, this is important and if you are by yourself, it is equally important. Ask God to guide your time.
- Try to think of a time when someone said something to you but then added a “but!” What happened to the original statement? How did it make you feel?
- Read the verses from John’s Gospel on the other side. It’s Jesus’ huge call of action - a commandment - to his disciples at the Last Supper. What do you think they were feeling as he commanded them to love one another? How is it relevant for us today?
- Now read our first “big but” from 1 John on the other side. How does this fit in with Jesus’ command? Why is taking action important in loving others?
- The first small action suggested is that of listening. Does this seem like an action to you? How so? Why might it be important? Who is it important to? Why? How could you be a better listener? Can you think of a time when you weren’t and it got you in a bit of trouble? Share if you can.
- The second small action is that of praying. When should you pray? Why? For whom? Who could you pray for this week that might really need it? Could you let them know you are praying for them? What might this mean to them?
- The third small action is that of serving. How do you show love by serving? How do you currently serve others? What does it mean to them? Who else might you serve?
- Close your time with prayer. Pray not only for yourselves but for the needs of your group, family, this church and school as well please.