

Baycities Lomita Winter/Spring 2019 Growth Groups
Series: “Community That Works”- John 13:34-35 Part 4
Theme: “Simply Irresistible” Week Of January 27, 2019
Follow-Up Bible Study and Discussion Questions

Message Summary: Simply Irresistible... quite a subject for a message, right? But Jesus seems to mean it! That His disciples, in the manner and frequency that they loved and supported one another, would have a “drawing” effect on the non-believing world near them! And, that effect would be so compelling and beautiful, that it alone would be their calling card! People would know that these men and women walked with Jesus, represented Jesus simply by the way they loved one another! WOW! John 13:34-35 tells the story. The new command to love one another... was not the previous one Jesus gave in the Sermon on the Mount... that being: to love your neighbor as yourself, and that command was literally now equal to the 1st command, to Love God with everything you’ve got! This new command was something more! It was directed to Christians to love other Christians in the same way that Jesus had loved them. We know what that was like! He loved sacrificially, personally, He kept loving them even when they didn’t deserve it, when they failed or fell down... He loved them gently and He showed up for them no matter what! He told them the truth but then came with grace to give them 2nd chances and encouragement when they failed miserably! Jesus now wants His followers to love each other that way! Of course it will be a great experience of community! Imagine the needs being met and the lives being helped and supported! But there is more to it... It would be an attractive community to non-believers. It would literally be **Simply Irresistible** to people looking for God! You can now see that Jesus meant. In His absence, with the Holy Spirit now given to each follower, our collective community would treat each other in such caring and meaningful ways, that evangelism would result from our just being together and by the stories of our love for one another! For Baycities Lomita, we have a bunch of those stories! Christians showing up for each other! Christians giving to each other’s needs! Christians going out of their way to help each other! The Lomita Labor of Love, where a bunch of us leave the church site and head into town and clean up, fix up and paint up residences and businesses in Jesus Name. The Neighbors In Need effort, the new Family Promise ministry... is an overflow of how we love one another! How we function together gives us credibility as Jesus’ representatives and turns up the wattage on us being individual and collective lights for Jesus in a dark place! You can see that every “light bearing Christian” matters here! How we forgive each other, how we treat visitors, how we go out of our way to help one another, and how far the stories of our crazy love for each other extend, determines how irresistible our church will become! Every one of us plays a part in this! How you love each other here, says what kind of disciples we are! May Jesus’ message of unconditional love for others draw many to Him right here!!

1. What grabbed your attention about the subject of being Simply Irresistible as Jesus followers from the message on Sunday?

2. Do you know a story(s) of people who attend this church and who are Jesus followers that have gone out of their way to care for another member of this church during your time here? Tell that story to your group and discuss its importance to you knowing about it.

3. Forgiveness is such a visible part of extending God's grace (underserved or unearned favor) to one another and a way we can love one another big tie. Look at Matt. 6:14-15... and discuss the implications of that verse to your life and interactions with other believers in your Group and church.

Matt. 6:14 “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. 15 But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

- a. Discuss what Jesus is saying here to His followers. How important is it to forgive others when they fail us? What are the consequences of being a non-forgiver?

4. We were literally all visitors to Baycities Lomita at one time or another. Describe how you felt coming to our church for the first time. How were you treated? What could we do better to make future visitors feel like our honored guests each week? Please make sure your suggestions get to Pastor Ben for consideration and action!!!

5. **Generosity Moment:** Occasionally, we'll include some check-up questions for you personally, in this case, concerning finances and money. These are meant for you to check in on yourself, stir your thinking and encourage actions you may want to make. It's a new year and making plans will have the greatest effect the earlier they are put into motion.

- a. Have you made your personal giving plan for 2019?
- b. Have you put it into effect yet?
- c. Are there any questions you have that are holding up your financial decisions this year that getting them answered would make your life more peaceful?
- d. Don & Diana Calhoun offer free financial advice and legacy planning insight for the asking. Please feel free to contact them with your questions.