

Lesson 6: A New Command

Icebreaker:

Bring some items, some new, some old. Let the group identify which ones are new and which ones aren't. Ask, "What makes an item 'new' and what makes it 'old'?"

Alternative:

What are some chores your parents wanted you to do that you had a hard time doing, but when you got older they made more sense (cleaning your room, feeding the dog, filling the dishwasher, etc.)? Why do you think those things were so hard to do and what made them make more sense as you matured?

In this session, we learn a new command from Jesus.



Watch the Video

Discussion Questions:

1. When do you find it most difficult to love someone (when they've hurt you, when they've annoyed you, when they've ignored you, etc.)?
2. Why do you think John calls this a "new command but an old one" in verse 7? How is it new and how is it old?
3. Who do you think John means by "his brother" in verse 9? Is the category of people not to hate limited to only believers?
4. Why is John so blunt in expressing the darkness that hate brings into our lives (verse 11)?
5. Why do you think Jesus and his disciples put so much emphasis on loving each other (John 13:34; 1 John 1:7; 1 John 2:9-11)?
6. Why do you think John used the example of "whoever hates his brother" to describe someone walking in darkness (verse 11)?

1 John 2:9 (NIV84)
Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother
is still in the darkness.