

**LIVING IN LA JOLLA: FIELD NOTES FROM HEAVEN ON EARTH #3**  
**THE FULL LIFE IS MEANT TO BE SHARED**  
**1 JOHN 4:7-12**

**GETTING STARTED**

Can you think of someone who it is hard for you to serve? Why do you think it is so difficult?

**DIGGING IN**

Read Matthew 20:20-28.

How does Jesus contrast his own life and kingdom with the other “rulers” of the day?

What is Jesus trying to help his disciples understand about following him?

Read 1 John 4:7-12.

What does this passage say about people who do not love others? Does that seem like a difficult or harsh judgment?

One troubling thing about this idea is that there are people in the world who serve others but don't believe in God, there are professing Christians who don't seem filled with love. How would you attempt to explain this difficulty in light of this passage?

Why is love the best way to show God off to the world?

**LIVING IT OUT**

The church is a community of faith where the love of God is expressed in our actions. One way that we can practice *thanksgiving* is to thank God for one another. Take the remaining time to pray and thank God for the people in your small group. A great way to do this would be for each person in the group to pray for the person on their right. Go around the circle praying short prayers of thanks, and be specific in thanking God for one unique way that you have seen him at work in that person's life.

If you are not meeting as a group, a great thing to do is writing a thank you note to someone that you have seen displaying the love of God in their service. If you have seen God at work in someone's life, why not take a few minutes this Thanksgiving week to write them a note of thanks?

These sermon notes are produced each week for further study and discussion in our small groups. If you are interested in joining a small group, please contact Leslie Ann Yell at [smallgroups@chathamchurch.org](mailto:smallgroups@chathamchurch.org) or 545-9589.