

SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

Big idea: We love God by serving people face to face.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Leviticus 19:10
Isaiah 58:6-8
Acts 9:36-42
1 Corinthians 13:3
James 2:5
Matthew 25:34-40

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Why are people poor? How does the reason behind someone's poverty impact God's command to respond?

Acts 9:36-42

How is Tabitha identified in this passage? How was she being like Jesus?

How did people respond to her death? How much of the community cared about her death?

I think Tabitha was a leader. How did she lead and what was the impact?

Matthew 25:34-40

What is Jesus calling us to do in this passage? What are the barriers that we think prevent us from doing this? What can you do to break through one of those barriers?

Would the city of Santa Rosa miss the church if it was gone? What are we uniquely gifted to do as a church that would make a difference in our community?

Would your neighborhood miss you if you moved away? How many of your neighbors can you name? Pray for the ones you can name and introduce yourself to a neighbor you don't know this week.

PRAYER FOCUS:

Praise God for His love for your neighbors.
Hear God's call to go next door.

Thank God for your friends, neighbors, and family by name.
Ask God for opportunities to love the people around you.

FAMILY RESOURCE

We love God by serving people face to face.

READ 1 JOHN 4:7-8

Where does love come from?
Why should we feel sorry for someone who isn't loving?
Look up "love" in the dictionary.
What definition of love is the Bible speaking about?
How many different kinds of "love" can you think of?

READ 1 JOHN 4:9-10

How did God show His love?
Find some sticks outside and make them into a cross to remind you of God's love.

READ ACTS 9:36-39

How would you describe Dorcas?
What makes you think your description is right?
Draw a picture of the most loving person you can think of, then guess who it is that each of you drew.

READ ACTS 9:40-42

Did Dorcas only show love to people who believed in Jesus?
Take litter bags with you on a walk and pick up any trash you come across.

READ 1 JOHN 4:19-21

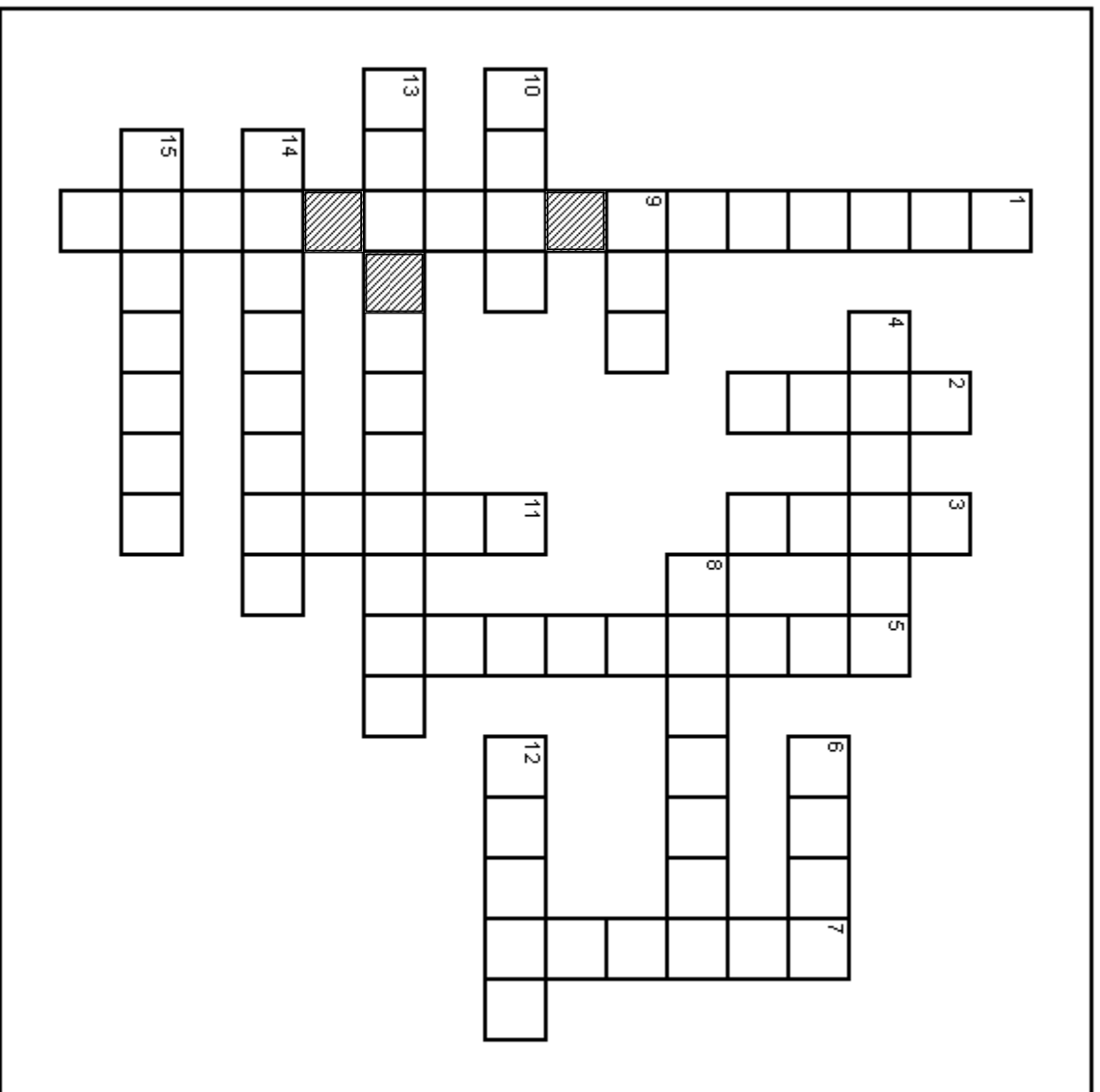
Who do you need to love?
Make a map of your neighborhood.
Pray that you will have an opportunity to love someone from each house.

MEMORY VERSE

____ of the _____ of the ____ came
and heard ____ debating. Noticing that _____
had given ____ a ____ answer, he asked Him,
"Of all the _____, which is the _____?"
"The most _____ one," answered _____, "is this: '____,
O _____, the Lord our _____, the Lord is _____. Love the _____
your ____ with ____ your _____ and with ____ your _____ and with
____ your _____ and with ____ your _____.'
The _____ is this: '____ your _____ as _____.'
There ____ no _____ greater _____ these."
Mark 12:28-31 (NIV)

Loving Others

All clues are from the NIV version of the Bible.



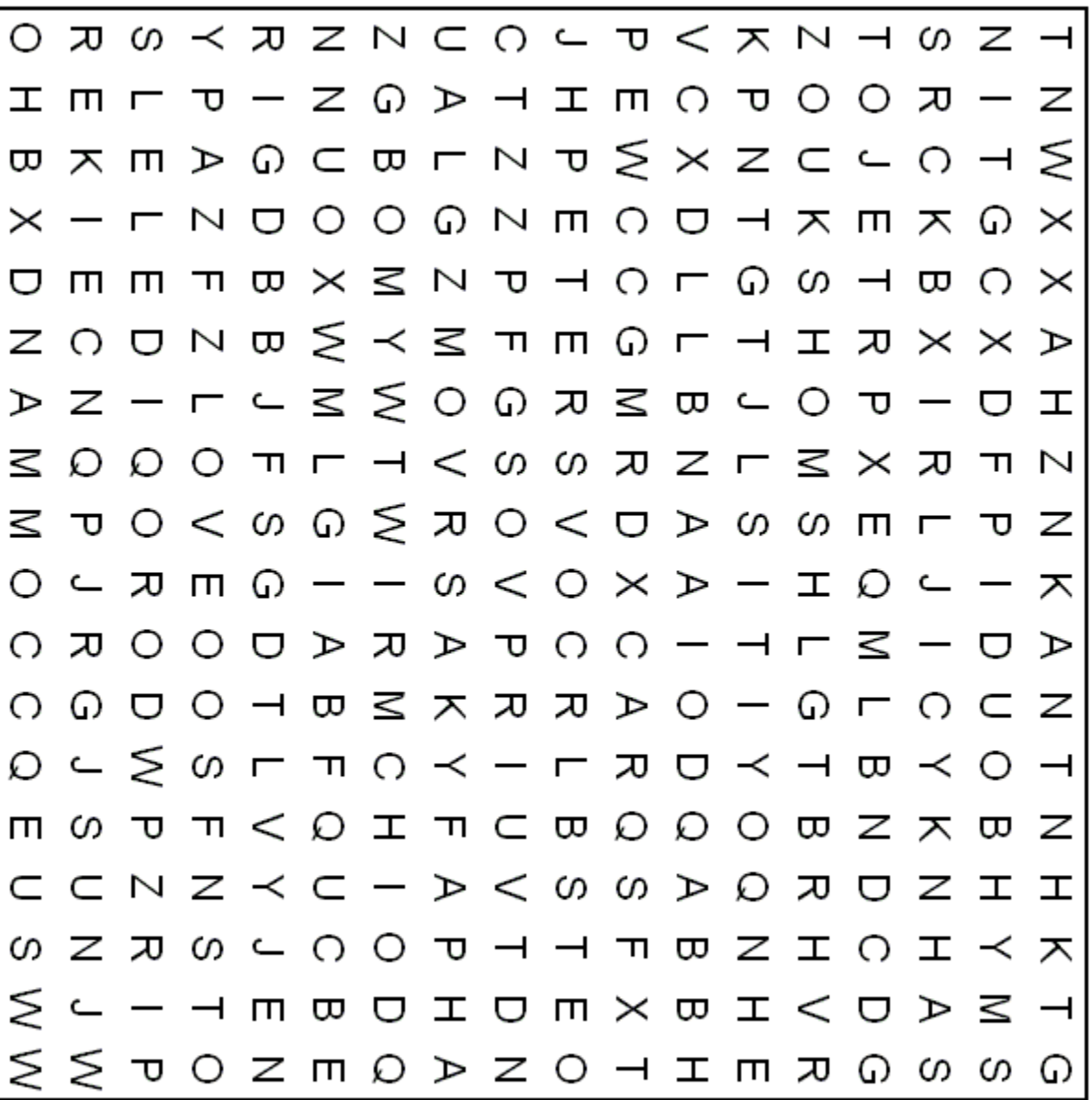
Across

- women without husbands (Acts 9:39)
- not bad (Acts 9:36)
- someone we must love (1 John 4:21)
- love comes from Him (1 John 4:7)
- a lover can't do this (1 John 4:20)
- ahead of others (1 John 4:19)
- who we should love (1 John 4:7)
- where they put the body (Acts 9:39)
- an order (1 John 4:21)

Down

- what Dorcas did (Acts 9:36)
- someone who doesn't tell the truth (1 John 4:30)
- a four letter word represented by a heart (1 John 4:7)
- this shows God's love (1 John 4:10)
- the Greek name for Tabitha (Acts 9:36)
- he asked Jesus to make Dorcas alive again (Acts 9:40)

Loving Others



good

God

command

helping the poor

upstairs

liar

first

love

one another

brother

hate

widows

sacrifice

Dorcas

Peter