

**Opening Prayer:**

Holy God, pour your light down upon us, that we may see you where we least expect to and follow in your way rather than in the way of the world. Amen.

• **Focus Points:**

1. There are times when following Jesus feels next to impossible.
2. Often our Christian values push against cultural expectations.
3. God's love remains strong and unconditional
4. The Holy Spirit is all around and within us.

• **Psalm 66:8-20**

1. Like God and Silver we are in need of being refined.
2. As our faith ebbs and flows, God's love and presence remain constant.
3. Belief in Jesus is not enough. We must live into our faith.

• **John 14:15-21**

1. Jesus, again talks with his followers about sharing not just love, but a radical, life changing inclusive love with the world. He tells them of such love moments before his arrest and death.
2. He also tells them to be prepared to be lonely because putting yourself out there for the sake of another is not only goes against their culture, but will make them untouchables themselves.
3. Jesus tells them that his time has come for him to leave them, but that he will be sending another to advocate on their behalf.
4. The Holy Spirit will be their friend, guide and mentor from now on.

### **Questions to Consider:**

- How do we know if we are loving in the right way?
- In your own experience, does your church act in love?
- How might we embody love that sees someone as they are? How might the personal stories of those who seem different help us cross the boundaries of race, gender, class and orientation?
- What inspires you? Challenges you? How do stories inform your understanding of what it means to love one another?
- Remember what it feels like to be seen and affirmed as your own self and pay it forward.

### **Activity: Legacy of Faith (attached)**

Take a moment to fill out your own legacy of faith.

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### **Next Week:**

Community of Prayer

### **Scripture Texts:**

John 17:1-11

Acts 1:6-14

1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

# Legacy of Faith

**My Important personal and spiritual values:**

**Important things I've learned in my life:**

**My hopes for the next generation:**

**My blessing for the next generation:**