



## Sermon Discussion Guide

### Love is With, Sees, and Hears - Tim Knipp

2-2-2025

#### Hook - Getting to know one another

- *How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.*
- *Play a game of Telephone! How better to show how we can hear, sometimes, what we want to, than a game of telephone. If you have little kids, keep it to one word or two. If you are a group of adults, make it a sentence to pass along. When you finish going around, check in with the person who started the telephone and what the sentence really was. How close did you get? Did the person at the beginning think they communicated clearly?*
- *What was a time you felt especially heard or seen? What was a time you felt unseen or unheard? How did it make you feel? What did you wish would have happened?*
- *Take a moment to practice “seeing” more than just the visual by looking outside at the trees, taking a walk and observing more closely your neighborhood, look at a famous piece of art. Reflect on what it means to see more than just with our eyes.*
- *Take a moment to practice “hearing” more than just “listening to music” by being completely silent for one more minute than you think is normal! Or listen to Vivaldi’s Spring movement from The Four Seasons. Reflect on what it means to hear if you are not planning a response.*

#### Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**: Romans 12:9-13 - Reread as well the verses leading up to this section.*
- *Pastor Tim tracked Jesus practice of being with, seeing, and hearing through the Gospels. Spend some time locating other instances in the life of Jesus where he practices these things. Were there times when Jesus himself needed those around him to be with him, see him, or hear him?*
- *Dig into the word Agape! Both as a noun and a verb. A commentary is a great place to start as well as a concordance. Where else do we see the word*



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*Agape used as a verb? Where do we see it in its use as a noun? Bible Gateway is a great online resource for study tools, concordances, encyclopedias, etc.*

- [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)
- Logos Bible Software is a great option too.

#### Look - Connections to our world today

- *This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*
- *Where does Hillcrest do a good job of being with, seeing, hearing in our church body, in our community, in our city? Where do we need to get better?*
- *How could being with, seeing, and hearing change the way we see people who believe different things than us? While we immediately think of those in need or those in trouble as being who may need these things, we can all admit that we each need to be seen, heard, and be with at times. How could we support each other in these ways?*
- *If God's love for humanity, expressed through Jesus, focuses on these three things, how should that change the world around us? How should it change our interactions person to person, on social media or online, over the phone or text?*

#### Took - Personal Application

- *This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*
- *Pastor Tim asked to reflect on the questions below -*
  - *Who is one person you spend time with that you can ask the questions:*
    - *What are the ways I'm not fully seeing or hearing you?*
    - *How can I see you and hear you better?*



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- *If you find yourself listening to respond or waiting for your turn to say something or walking past someone in need, etc. what is one way you can personally practice hearing, seeing, or being with like Jesus did?*
- *Listen to and breathe into the song [The Greatest Commandment by The Porter's Gate](#). Reflect on what this practically means to you at your work or home, with friends and strangers, online and in person, in America and in the world.*

Time of Prayer