



## Week 3: September 5-11

The biblical foundation for a disciple-making culture is love.

*Guiding Verses: John 13:34-35, 1 Thessalonians 2:8*

Culture is a very important word. Every organization has a specific culture. You can usually find what kind of culture an organization is trying to develop in their mission statement or in the way their leaders talk. But you cannot always see it in their organization. The Oklahoma City Thunder have a specific culture within their organization. You can hear about it when they talk about the players they draft. They want high character, hard working men on their team. That is why players like Nick Collison, Russel Westbrook and Lu Dort are so loved by the organization and fan base. Their style of play isn't always one's preference, but their heart and effort is never in doubt. As a result of drafting and trading for these types of players, the Thunder were perennial contenders in the NBA for close to ten years. Most of the players that were part of that winning team have moved on and now the team is rebuilding by drafting and developing players with the same DNA.

At Western Hills, we have a specific culture that is leading us to a winning formula, and it all starts with love. Jesus says this in John 13:34-35:

***"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."***

The biblical foundation for a disciple-making culture is love. Without loving people well, we cannot make disciples who make disciples. Without loving people well, we cannot do our part in the advancement of God's kingdom. But what does it practically look like to love others well? Paul says this in 1 Thessalonians 2:8:

***"So being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us."***

Loving others is sharing the gospel with people. This is the most loving thing we can do. But it is also sharing our lives with others. When we share our lives with those in our group or workplace doors are opened for us to share what God has done for us and for them. This is the culture that we want to have at Western Hills. It is a culture that is very simple in concept. But it can be hard to practice daily and without buying into this culture, disciples will not be made. Let's lead our groups to be fully bought into the culture of disciple-making by leading them to love God and others well.