



## TEACH IT TALK SESSION 9

This talk guide is just that: a guide. It's not intended to be a manuscript to read aloud. It's here to give you ideas, structure, and stories to blend with your personal study (Prep It) as you prepare your talk.

The content complements the other Teach It guides, allowing you to give a talk on the same topic students are studying in other settings (such as small groups) without too much overlap.

### 1. Materials (Optional)

- Video Clips: Choose two or three video clips from a video-sharing Web site that show historic achievements of people who did the impossible. Search words and phrases such as *Wright Brothers first powered flight*, *Roger Bannister breaking four-minute mile*, and *first man on the moon*. These clips will help illustrate the point (toward the end of the talk) that “love as Jesus loved” kind of love may seem hard to achieve, but when we do, it results in more people wanting more of this love.
- Quotations: famous people commenting on loving others

### 2. Optional Openings

#### VIDEO CLIPS

Show two or three of the video clips you found, showing historic achievements of people who did the impossible.

After the clips, explain to your group—

**Here are two things many people declared impossible—or “simple foolishness.” Journalists wrote magazine articles explaining just why the four-minute mile wasn’t doable. And yet, less than two months after Roger Bannister did the “impossible,” his record was beaten by two seconds! In fact, if you were to look up the two-mile world record today, it’s less than eight minutes. That means someone actually ran two back-to-back sub-four-minute miles. Once the four-minute mile was proved possible, it seemed like everybody could then do it. Even high school runners and 40-year-old men have achieved it, and several athletes have run the mile that fast in excess of 100 times. The impossible was proved possible.**

**And most of us know the familiar refrain people used to ridicule the Wright Brothers. In fact, say it with me: “If man were meant to fly, he’d have wings.” And look at what their ambition led to: millions of people flying every day—and some people have even flown to the moon.**

#### QUOTATIONS

Introduce the idea of loving others with these quotations:

**Love means loving the unlovable—or it is no virtue at all.**  
—G.K. Chesterton (1874–1936, English writer and Christian apologist)

**Our love to God is measured by our everyday fellowship with others and the love it displays.**  
—Andrew Murray (1828–1917, Christian pastor and writer)

**Love is a fruit in season at all times, and within the reach of every hand.**  
—Mother Teresa (1910–1997, Catholic nun and founder of Missionaries of Charity)

### PERSONAL STORY

Share a story of a seemingly impossible feat, such as:

- a term paper you procrastinated on, but turned in on time
- a hike you took or a cliff you scaled
- memorizing a list, such as the order of the U.S. presidents or the state capitals
- memorizing a chapter or book of the Bible

Here's an example:

**I remember kneeling down to tie my son's shoes one day. He said to me, "Dad, when I go off to college and move out of the house, will you still come over to tie my shoes?" He was just a kid, but he was already talking about college and moving out of the house. He could see himself doing that one day, but he just couldn't imagine being able to tie his own shoes! That just seemed like too much!**

### 3. Digging In

Continue with—

**In John 13:34-37 Jesus said:**

**"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later." Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you."**

**Reading that passage, I sort of wonder, *What was so new about this command?* Love one another. Seems like that's been around awhile. I guess there was something new in taking it the next step—doing it "as I have loved you." Jesus made this command new by giving his disciples a pretty solid example that showed the degree to which they were to love one another. He'd spent a few years cultivating relationships, teaching, training, encouraging, and holding these guys accountable. And then he washed their feet.**

**Those are the things Jesus was probably referring to when he said, "Love as I have loved you." Sometimes we dismiss this degree of love as "you gotta die on the cross" kind of love. And we think that since we'll probably never have to do that, then we can kinda let ourselves off the hook. But Jesus hadn't died on the cross yet. What he had done was washed their feet. And that's something we can do.**

**Jesus showed the disciples love in a new way, and then he called them to do the same. He went on to explain, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples...." In other words, if you didn't understand it before, fellas, I need you to do this so other people will know you were with me. You'll be marked as one of my followers if you (wait for it...) follow me! We can recognize [insert favorite or local sports team here] fans because they follow the team and wear the fan gear. We can know that people are disciples of Jesus because they love people in much the same way Jesus did. It just stands to reason.**

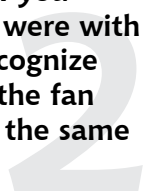
#### OPTIONAL MIX-INS

You may want to point out a few expositional facts:

*-First off, everything Jesus taught was important. But he also gave a farewell talk to his disciples—and you usually put your most important stuff in your farewell talk.*

*-So in John 13–17 (which looks like a sea of red in a red-letter edition of the Bible), we have the world's most important teacher giving his most important teaching. Seems like we should pay attention!*

*-Jesus began his important teaching with an unusual activity. He washed his disciples' feet. That was a pretty smelly job that masters couldn't even require their slaves to do back then. But there was Jesus, kneeling and washing.*



## GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

If we nod our heads and smile when someone addresses us, that doesn't mean we're following Jesus. If we wear W.W.J.D.? bracelets and show up to youth group, that doesn't mean we're following him. If we go to Christian concerts and try not to do bad things...well, you get the point. There's only one very clear sign that you're a follower of Christ—and that's by the way you love others.

## OUR PERSPECTIVE

Maybe you're asking, Wouldn't it just be easier if we could wear T-shirts that would identify us? We could get a bunch of them and try to agree on a design, and then the world would know we're his disciples by our T-shirts. Makes sense, right? Maybe not. People get a sense that someone is different when they see that person love people without strings attached. People know that there's something different about you when you refuse to gossip, pile on, point fingers, and behave like everyone else. People know that you're a devoted follower of Jesus when you follow him and his example of sacrificial love. It's just true.

And here's the kicker. They'll want what you have. When Jesus' followers show people what this kind of love is, following Jesus suddenly becomes attractive to someone who doesn't know him.

Jesus asks a question of Peter at the end of this chapter: "Will you really lay down your life for me?" Peter gets a little huffy, indignant, defensive, prideful—and then he blows it. We all blow it. We need forgiveness. We need grace. We need Jesus—and we need to continue to follow him and his example.

## 4. Taking It Inward

Continue with—

This kind of love doesn't come naturally. Maybe that's why Jesus put a new twist on it. He made it a new command by using himself as an example. It's a huge thing to shoot for. But once we hit it, people will want more of it.

Refer back to the video clips you used, and then continue with—

Once people saw Roger Bannister hit the four-minute mile, others soon followed. Once the Wright Brothers conquered flight—an endeavor many people made fun of—their invention was taken to heights (literally) that they never thought possible. Some may think that loving as Jesus loved isn't reachable. But once people see someone love as Jesus loved, they may take that love to heights you never dreamed of.

## 5. Wrapping It Up

Finish with—

Think about where you can start. Who in your life can you love as Jesus loved? Get a name in your mind. Within the next 24 hours, do something for that person to show love as Jesus loved. Then, within the next 24 hours after you do something, send me an e-mail about it. Tell me what you did and what thoughts were going through your mind as you did it. Did you sense some fulfillment? Was it difficult to do?

So, within the next 48 hours, you should be showing Jesus' love to someone and then letting me know about it.