



## A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families For the week of May 28, 2023

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

### Warm Up

- When is it hard to love? Why?
- How does someone know they are loved?

### Romans 12:9-21

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

- What are imperatives in this verse? Why are these commands so important for a Christian lifestyle of love?
- How do we love unlovely people, and yet be genuine?

<sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

- Paul gives at least a dozen exhortations in this section. What do they cover?
- Can you articulate a simple and Biblical definition of "Love"?
- How does the Gospel alone make each aspect of love possible?

<sup>17</sup> Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup> To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his

### Loving Friends and Enemies

head." <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

- How would Paul counsel you to respond to someone who is hostile? Why?
- Consider the following summary of Paul's exhortations from this passage. Which one is most challenging today? Why?
  - Love unattractive people, but with repentance and sincerity. (9)
  - Love by letting people know they are honored and valuable. Show utmost consideration to those around you. (10)
  - Love with dogged affection over the long haul. Stay loyal. (10-12)
  - Love generously, in a practical way with your home, money and time. (13)
  - Love without bitterness. Don't pay back or harbor resentment against others. (14)
  - Love with heart and compassion. Be willing to be emotionally involved with others. (15)
  - Love humbly, willing to associate with people who are different than you. (16)
  - Love hostile people, with generous and kind words and deeds. (17-21)
- Pray together in light of this week's passage.

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, [kevin@wepc.org](mailto:kevin@wepc.org)