



LESSON 1 // ALL IN

Big Idea: Long-lasting relationships require all-in commitments, and we see this in the Old Testament story of Ruth. These commitments start with the heart. They are based in love for others that reflects God's love for us. All-in commitments also overcome challenges. And these commitments must be maintained—they must be fed and nurtured to keep them strong.

Proverbs 17:17 (NIV) *A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*

John 15:13 (NIV) *Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

Ruth 1:14b-17a (NLT) *But Ruth clung tightly to Naomi. ¹⁵ "Look," Naomi said to her, "your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. You should do the same." ¹⁶ But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. ¹⁷ Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried."*

Luke 14:28 (NLT) *But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?*

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV) *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

Start Talking:

What's one of the happiest family memories you have from your growing-up years?

Start Thinking:

Read Proverbs 17:17 and John 15:13. Why is it so important to understand God's great love for us in Christ if we want to establish loving commitments and relationships with others?

Read Ruth 1:14-17. What qualities are essential for a strong commitment that will last in a relationship?

Read Luke 14:28. What does it mean to "count the cost" of commitment in relationships? What happens if we fail to do this?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. What are some of the emotional challenges that make it hard to maintain relational commitments? How can God's love working through you help you overcome these challenges?

Start Praying and Doing:

Pray for the grace and strength you need to establish and maintain God-honoring commitments in your relationships. Take time this week to reflect on 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and let God's love for you fill your heart and fuel your love for others. Seek to address any relational challenges with love and humility, believing God to work in you as you submit to Him.