

## Never Alone: How to Build Relationships that Last

### Week 1: LOVE One Another



#### In this Session:

We begin our fall worship series **Never Alone** by exploring the command to “love” one another. This command appears 16 times in the New Testament. This teaching and all “the-one- another” commands were foundational to early Christian communities. It’s been said, “The primary activity of the early church was ‘one-anothering’ one another.” In this session we’ll discuss how the church today can respond to the call to Love One Another.

#### Warm-Up Question:

So, what does it look like for us today to love one another? Tell about a time when you truly experienced pure, Christ-like love. What were the marks or characteristics of this experience? How did it make you think and feel?

#### Key Passages:

Clearly, the Bible has a lot to say about Loving One Another. Read these passages:

- John 13:34-35 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
- 1 John 4:7-8 “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”
- John 15:12-13 “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”
- Matthew 22:37-39 “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.”
- Romans 12:9-12 “<sup>9</sup> Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

#### Discuss:

- As you read each of the passages above, what did the Holy Spirit point out to you?
- As you listened to the sermon on Sunday, what did the Holy Spirit point out to you?
- Take a moment to honestly assess and process how YOUR attitude compares with the command of Jesus to “love one another.”
- Where is the direction of your life consistent with Jesus’ command? Are there areas where your life or attitudes are inconsistent with Jesus’ command to Love One Another?
- What are some helpful patterns that might encourage you and help you as you grow into becoming a more Loving person.
- In what ways can you prepare/equip/train yourself to respond to these real-life situations in a way that Jesus would if he were you?

#### Pray:

Spend some time praying that God will help you and those in your group grow to Love One Another.