

LOVE HANDLES week 1

These questions are for your growth and to prepare for the conversation in your Growth Group. We encourage you to read through them, spend some time thinking about your responses and write down anything that could aid in your Group. We also encourage you dig deeper, research, look for supporting Scriptures, etc. We are excited for your growth relationally and spiritual. **We recommend the Bible versions of - ESV, NTL, NIV and The Message.

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Series Overview: We're all looking for love...and not just romantic love. We want our core relationships to work well, and they do...well...some of them, some of the time. It's easy for us to love people when they act lovable, but what about the rest of the time? What about when they hurt or fail us? What about the moments when we realize just how different we really are? What do we do then? What's the right thing to do? The healthy thing to do? How does love handle those difficult moments?

//TALK

Ice Breaker - What is the worst Valentine's Day candy you have ever eaten? Which of the boxed chocolates do you like the most?

Q1 – Can you recall a time you stepped into someone else's painful/frustrating/difficult situation and tried your best to help them? What did you do to help? Did it feel like enough or not?

Q2 – The statement was made, "**The true measure of our lives will be how much, or how little, we love.**" Would you agree or not? If not, what else do you think your life might be measured by?

Q3 – Considering the 4 most common types of "love" in the Greek language; Storge [empathy], Philia [friend], Eros [erotic], Agape [unconditional God love], what is something that stood out to you about them? What is something you learned about "love" from understanding the different types of love?

Q4 – Read **John 21:15-19**. [Read in different translations] What stands out to you in this exchange between Simon Peter and Jesus? If you were Simon Peter, what would have been going through your mind? What would you have been focussed on as you were eating breakfast with Jesus? How would it have felt to be completely restored and invited to continue "following" Jesus?

Q5 – The statements was made that "**Love is much more than good feelings or intentions. It has direction, movement, and purpose.**" It was also stated that "**Love always leads you to do something.**" Would you agree? Why or why not? If love is really an action, how can you better express love to those around you...practically speaking?

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//GO DEEPER

Additional Scriptures to read and discuss: Read **John 21**. Take in the full account of what is happening in the life of Simon Peter and how he is restored. Read **Matthew 25:35-45**. How does this passage emphasize the importance of practical acts of love and kindness?

//THE POINT

Love is the best way to handle everything.

//MEMORIZE

Matthew 25:40 - 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

//PRAY

As you share prayer requests, take time to personally make requests known in an honest and safe environment. Encourage everyone to write down requests and to pray during the week. Please pray for our #LoveOthersMonth and the practical ways we are going to love our community this month. Pray that our church takes this opportunity to put their faith into action.