

## **Leader's Guide for Love Like God – Bible Study**

### **LOVE LIKE GOD**

#### **Leader Introduction & Preparation Guide**

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#### **Welcome, Leader**

Thank you for leading a *Love Like God* group.

You are not simply guiding a Bible discussion — you are helping people learn how to relate to God and to others differently. This study moves beyond information into transformation. Participants will likely be encouraged, challenged, and sometimes convicted as God reshapes how they think about love.

That means your role is not to teach perfectly — your role is to create a safe place where God can work.

You are a shepherd of conversation, not a lecturer. I would also encourage you and your participants to read in advance the chapter of *Love Like God* for each week's study.

To access Videos and to download Study Guides for each session, go to:  
<https://www.livingthewordtoday.com/love/>

## The Goal of This Study

The goal is not to master 1 Corinthians 13 intellectually.

The goal is that people:

- become more patient
- forgive more freely
- react more gently
- hope more readily
- endure more faithfully
- love more like Christ

If your group grows in love toward God and each other, the study has succeeded.

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## Your Role as Leader

You are not expected to have all the answers.

You are responsible to:

### **1. Guide discussion**

Keep the group moving and balanced.

### **2. Protect safety**

People open up only where they feel respected.

### **3. Encourage participation**

Draw out quiet members without forcing them.

### **4. Keep the focus spiritual**

Move conversation from opinions to heart change.

### **5. Model humility**

Honest leaders create honest groups.

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## What This Study Will Do to People

Expect three reactions:

## **Conviction**

Participants will recognize unhealthy relational habits.

## **Relief**

They will see God's patience and grace toward them.

## **Growth**

They will begin changing how they respond to others.

Sometimes people may feel uncomfortable — that's normal. Love exposes the heart before it heals it.

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# **Creating a Healthy Group Environment**

## **Establish Ground Rules (First Meeting)**

Encourage your group to agree to:

1. Confidentiality — what's shared here stays here
2. No fixing — listen before advising
3. Everyone participates — no monopolizing
4. Grace — imperfect answers welcome
5. Growth — we are all learning

You may simply say:

“This is a safe place to grow, not a place to impress.”

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# **Leading the Discussion Well**

## **Ask, Don't Tell**

Avoid mini-sermons.

Respond with: “*What do others think?*”

## **Use Silence**

Give 5–10 seconds after asking a question.  
People often speak after thinking time.

### **Redirect Gently**

If someone dominates:

“Let’s hear from someone who hasn’t shared yet.”

### **Handle Theology Debates**

If discussion drifts into argument:

“That’s a good topic — let’s bring it back to how this changes our relationships.”

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## **When Difficult Topics Arise**

This study touches real pain — forgiveness, resentment, conflict.

If someone shares deeply:

Do:

- Thank them
- Affirm courage
- Invite prayer

Don’t:

- Diagnose
- Counsel extensively
- Solve immediately

You are leading spiritual growth, not providing therapy.

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## **Preparing Each Week**

Before group:

1. Pray for each participant by name
2. Watch the video ahead of time
3. Read the session questions
4. Choose 2–3 key questions (not all are required)
5. Plan your closing prayer focus

Your preparation matters more spiritually than intellectually.

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## **Time Flow (Recommended 60–75 Minutes)**

- Welcome & Opening Question — 5 min
- Video — 5 min
- Discussion — 30 min
- Application — 10 min
- Prayer — 10 min

Don't rush the prayer time — many groups experience the deepest growth there.

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## **Tips for a Spiritually Fruitful Group**

- Share honestly yourself first
  - Celebrate small growth
  - Keep pointing back to Christ
  - Pray specifically
  - Focus on transformation, not information
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## **If a Week Feels Quiet**

That does not mean failure.

Sometimes God works internally before people speak externally.

Faithfulness matters more than emotional energy.

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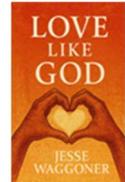
## Final Encouragement

You do not have to be the most knowledgeable person in the room to be the most effective leader.

People grow most in environments marked by:

humility  
honesty  
grace  
and prayer

Lead with those, and God will use you.



## SESSION 1 — LOVE IS PATIENT

1 Corinthians 13:4

### Session Aim

To help participants recognize impatience as self-centeredness and begin choosing grace over irritation.

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### Opening Question (Icebreaker)

What is one situation that consistently tests your patience?

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### Watch Video

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### Discussion Questions

### Observation

1. According to the passage, why do you think patience comes first in the definition of love?
2. What stood out to you most from the teaching?

### **Understanding**

3. The word patience means “long-suffering” — giving people time to grow. Why is that difficult in close relationships?
4. How does remembering God’s patience toward us change how we see others?

### **Heart Reflection**

5. Who is hardest for you to be patient with right now?
6. What expectations do you hold that might be fueling your impatience?

### **Application**

7. What would change this week if you valued the person more than your schedule?
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### **Leader Insight Notes**

Impatience is often a control issue.  
We become impatient when reality interrupts our plans.  
Biblical love shifts focus from efficiency → relationship.

Patience is not passive tolerance — it is active grace.

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### **Weekly Challenge**

Pause before reacting this week and pray:  
**“Lord, help me respond with Your patience, not my pressure.”**

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### **Prayer Focus**

Ask God to help each person reflect His patience in one specific relationship this week.

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# SESSION 2 — LOVE IS KIND

1 Corinthians 13:4

## Session Aim

To move participants from restraint (patience) to intentional action (kindness).

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## Opening Question

What is a small act of kindness someone did for you that you still remember?

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## Watch Video

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## Discussion Questions

### Observation

1. What is the difference between patience and kindness?
2. Why is kindness described as love in action?

### Understanding

3. Why can kindness be hardest when unnoticed or inconvenient?
4. Why is kindness connected to the work of the Holy Spirit rather than personality?

### Heart Reflection

5. In what relationships have you settled for “not being mean” instead of being actively kind?
6. Where do you tend to withdraw instead of step in?

### Application

7. What practical act of kindness could you do this week that costs you time or comfort?
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## Leader Insight Notes

Patience restrains harm.  
Kindness initiates good.

Many believers avoid hurting people but rarely help them.  
Biblical love is proactive.

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### **Weekly Challenge**

Do one intentional helpful act for someone you normally overlook.

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### **Prayer Focus**

Pray God would make the group sensitive to opportunities to help others this week.

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## **SESSION 3 — LOVE DOES NOT ENVY**

**1 Corinthians 13:4**

### **Session Aim**

To expose comparison and replace it with gratitude and celebration.

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### **Opening Question**

What is something people commonly compare today (social media, careers, parenting, etc.)?

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### **Watch Video**

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### **Discussion Questions**

## **Observation**

1. How is envy different from simply noticing differences?
2. Why can love and envy not coexist?

## **Understanding**

3. How does comparison affect relationships?
4. What does envy reveal about our trust in God?

## **Heart Reflection**

5. When do you feel comparison the most?
6. Is there someone whose success is hard for you to celebrate?

## **Application**

7. What would it look like to intentionally celebrate someone this week?
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## **Leader Insight Notes**

Envy questions God's goodness:  
"God was better to them than to me."

Love trusts God's personal plan for each person.

Celebration is the antidote to comparison.

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## **Weekly Challenge**

Encourage or affirm someone you normally compare yourself to.

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## **Prayer Focus**

Ask God to replace comparison with contentment and gratitude.

# SESSION 4 — LOVE DOES NOT BOAST

1 Corinthians 13:4

## Session Aim

To help participants identify self-promotion and learn to intentionally elevate others instead of themselves.

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## Opening Question

What is a humble person you respect — and what makes them different?

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## Watch Video

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## Discussion Questions

### Observation

1. What does boasting look like beyond obvious bragging?
2. Why is selfishness a deeper enemy of love than we often realize?

### Understanding

3. How can insecurity actually fuel boasting?
4. Why does love redirect attention instead of drawing it?

### Heart Reflection

5. When are you most tempted to highlight your accomplishments?
6. Do you struggle more with needing recognition or withholding encouragement?

### Application

7. How could you intentionally spotlight someone else this week?
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## Leader Insight Notes

Boasting is often a search for identity.  
We promote ourselves when we're unsure of our worth.

Love frees us from self-promotion because identity comes from Christ.

Humility is not thinking less of yourself —  
it is thinking of yourself less.

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## **Weekly Challenge**

In conversations this week:

- Give credit away
  - Affirm someone publicly
  - Speak about God's goodness instead of your success
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## **Prayer Focus**

Pray for freedom from needing approval and confidence in God's acceptance.

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# **SESSION 5 — LOVE IS NOT ARROGANT**

**1 Corinthians 13:4**

## **Session Aim**

To replace performance-based living with humble, unseen service.

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## **Opening Question**

When do people tend to act differently in public than in private?

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## **Watch Video**

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## Discussion Questions

### Observation

1. How is arrogance different from boasting?
2. Why does arrogance push people away relationally?

### Understanding

3. What are subtle forms of pride (serving for recognition, keeping score, etc.)?
4. Why does security in Christ produce humility?

### Heart Reflection

5. Where might you secretly want credit for your service?
6. In what relationships do you struggle to serve quietly?

### Application

7. What is one loving act you can do this week that no one else will know about?
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## Leader Insight Notes

Boasting speaks loudly.  
Arrogance lives quietly.

Arrogance = self at the center  
Love = God and others at the center

The gospel produces humility because we were loved before we earned it.

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## Weekly Challenge

Perform one intentional act of kindness anonymously.

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## Prayer Focus

Ask God to replace performance with devotion.

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# SESSION 6 — LOVE IS NOT RUDE

1 Corinthians 13:5

## Session Aim

To help participants understand that everyday respect is a spiritual issue, not just a personality trait.

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## Opening Question

What small behavior makes you feel disrespected quickly?

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## Watch Video

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## Discussion Questions

### Observation

1. What kinds of behaviors were described as rude?
2. Why is rudeness usually connected to selfishness?

### Understanding

3. Why are we often more polite to strangers than family?
4. How does tone affect relationships more than words?

### Heart Reflection

5. Who receives your worst reactions?
6. Where do you excuse behavior because you're comfortable?

### Application

7. What would change if you treated those closest to you with the same courtesy as guests?
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## **Leader Insight Notes**

Rudeness rarely destroys relationships instantly — it erodes them slowly.

Love values dignity in everyday moments.

Courtesy is not cultural — it is Christlike.

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## **Weekly Challenge**

Practice intentional courtesy at home:

- listen fully
  - say thank you
  - soften tone
  - no interrupting
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## **Prayer Focus**

Pray God would reshape speech and reactions in the home first.

# **SESSION 7 — LOVE DOES NOT INSIST ON ITS OWN WAY**

**1 Corinthians 13:5**

## **Session Aim**

To help participants recognize how self-centered preferences damage relationships and learn the freedom of yielding.

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## **Opening Question**

What is a small preference you tend to feel strongly about (food, schedule, music, plans, etc.)?

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## **Watch Video**

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## **Discussion Questions**

### **Observation**

1. What does it mean that love is not selfish or demanding its own way?
2. How does turning relationships into competitions damage them?

### **Understanding**

3. Why do we instinctively feel that giving in means losing?
4. How does Jesus' humility challenge our idea of winning?

### **Heart Reflection**

5. Where do you fight hardest to be right?
6. In what relationship do you struggle most to yield?

### **Application**

7. What situation this week could you intentionally surrender for the sake of peace?
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## **Leader Insight Notes**

Selfishness turns relationships into scoreboards.  
Love turns them into partnerships.

Giving up control often strengthens trust.

Jesus did not lose by surrendering —  
He accomplished redemption.

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## **Weekly Challenge**

Before reacting in conflict ask:  
“What would love choose right now?”

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### **Prayer Focus**

Pray for teachable hearts and the willingness to surrender personal rights.

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## **SESSION 8 — LOVE IS NOT IRRITABLE**

**1 Corinthians 13:5**

### **Session Aim**

To help participants identify triggers and respond with Spirit-controlled restraint instead of reaction.

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### **Opening Question**

What minor thing irritates you faster than it should?

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### **Watch Video**

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### **Discussion Questions**

#### **Observation**

1. What does it mean that love is not easily provoked?
2. What kinds of everyday situations trigger irritation?

#### **Understanding**

3. Why does irritation reveal more about our expectations than the other person?
4. How is self-control a form of strength?

### **Heart Reflection**

5. What patterns do you notice behind your irritation (fatigue, control, pride)?
6. Who experiences your reactions most often?

### **Application**

7. How could pausing change your relationships this week?
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### **Leader Insight Notes**

Anger is often unfulfilled expectation.  
We react when reality doesn't match our preference.

Love slows reactions and protects people from our moods.

Spiritual maturity shows up most clearly in small moments.

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### **Weekly Challenge**

Practice the 3-step response:  
Pause → Pray → Reframe

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### **Prayer Focus**

Ask God to rule your spirit and calm reactions.

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## **SESSION 9 — LOVE KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS**

**1 Corinthians 13:5**

### **Session Aim**

To lead participants toward forgiveness and freedom from resentment.

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## Opening Question

Why is it easier to remember hurt than kindness?

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## Watch Video

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## Discussion Questions

### Observation

1. What picture does Scripture give for resentment?
2. Why does holding grudges feel like justice?

### Understanding

3. How does remembering offenses affect relationships?
4. How does God's forgiveness toward us shape our forgiveness toward others?

### Heart Reflection

5. Is there a person whose name is still written in your "ledger"?
6. What fear makes releasing the hurt difficult?

### Application

7. What would it look like to stop using a past wrong against someone?
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## Leader Insight Notes

Forgiveness is not pretending the hurt didn't happen.  
It is releasing the right to collect payment.

Resentment keeps us tied to the past.  
Forgiveness frees both people — but especially the forgiver.

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## Weekly Challenge

Write down the offense and intentionally pray:  
“Lord, I release this to You.”

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## Prayer Focus

Pray for courage to forgive and healing of emotional wounds.

# SESSION 10 — LOVE DOES NOT REJOICE IN WRONGDOING

1 Corinthians 13:6

## Session Aim

To help participants recognize hidden attitudes of revenge or satisfaction in others’ failure and replace them with compassion.

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## Opening Question

Why do people sometimes feel satisfaction when someone who hurt them experiences consequences?

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## Watch Video

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## Discussion Questions

### Observation

1. What does it mean to “rejoice in wrongdoing”?
2. Why is this often an internal reaction rather than an external action?

### **Understanding**

3. Why do we want justice but also secretly want to witness it?
4. How does remembering our own forgiveness change our response to others' failure?

### **Heart Reflection**

5. Have you ever secretly felt justified when someone struggled after hurting you?
6. What would compassion look like in that situation?

### **Application**

7. This week, how can you respond differently when you hear negative news about someone difficult?
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### **Leader Insight Notes**

This is about inner posture, not behavior.

The heart can say "that's sad" while the emotions say "they deserved it."

Love desires restoration, not humiliation.

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### **Weekly Challenge**

When hearing negative news about someone, immediately pray for their healing and restoration.

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### **Prayer Focus**

Pray for hearts that desire redemption instead of payback.

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## **SESSION 11 — LOVE REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH**

**1 Corinthians 13:6**

## Session Aim

To help participants learn to love real people honestly instead of expecting idealized versions of them.

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## Opening Question

What is the difference between loving who someone is and loving who you wish they were?

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## Watch Video

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## Discussion Questions

### Observation

1. What does it mean to rejoice in the truth?
2. How is this connected to the previous statement about wrongdoing?

### Understanding

3. Why does love require honesty and not denial?
4. How can love accept imperfection without approving sin?

### Heart Reflection

5. Where do you struggle to accept reality in a relationship?
6. Do you tend to focus more on faults or growth?

### Application

7. What is one piece of growth you can affirm in someone this week?
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## Leader Insight Notes

Love without truth becomes sentimentality.  
Truth without love becomes harshness.

Biblical love holds both at the same time.

Encouragement strengthens growth more than criticism alone.

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### **Weekly Challenge**

Affirm one evidence of growth in someone each day.

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### **Prayer Focus**

Pray for honest love — grace-filled but truthful.

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## **SESSION 12 — LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS**

**1 Corinthians 13:7**

### **Session Aim**

To help participants understand the difference between protecting dignity and enabling sin.

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### **Opening Question**

When should something be kept private, and when should it be shared?

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### **Watch Video**

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### **Discussion Questions**

#### **Observation**

1. What does it mean that love “covers”?
2. How is this different from ignoring wrongdoing?

### **Understanding**

3. Why do we feel tempted to talk about others' failures?
4. How does remembering God covering our sin change our behavior?

### **Heart Reflection**

5. Do you tend to expose or protect people's weaknesses?
6. When have your words harmed someone's reputation?

### **Application**

7. What is one situation where silence or private correction would honor God this week?
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### **Leader Insight Notes**

Covering sin ≠ enabling sin.

It means protecting dignity while still addressing truth appropriately.

Love asks:

“Will this help restore them — or just inform others?”

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### **Weekly Challenge**

Before speaking about someone, ask:

“Will this help them or harm them?”

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### **Prayer Focus**

Pray for wisdom to balance truth and protection.

## **SESSION 13 — LOVE BELIEVES ALL THINGS**

**1 Corinthians 13:7**

### **Session Aim**

To replace suspicion with charitable trust and create space for growth in relationships.

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## Opening Question

Do you naturally trust people quickly or cautiously? Why?

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## Watch Video

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## Discussion Questions

### Observation

1. What does “believes all things” not mean?
2. How does love differ from gullibility?

### Understanding

3. Why do past hurts often lead us to assume the worst?
4. How did Jesus demonstrate belief in Peter after failure?

### Heart Reflection

5. Who have you quietly labeled as unlikely to change?
6. How might your expectations be affecting that relationship?

### Application

7. What would it look like to intentionally encourage someone this week?
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## Leader Insight Notes

This passage teaches posture, not naivety.

Love begins with trust unless proven otherwise.

Suspicion prevents growth because people tend to live up to expectations.

Belief offers room for transformation.

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## Weekly Challenge

Tell one person:  
“I believe God is working in your life.”

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### **Prayer Focus**

Pray for softened hearts and restored trust.

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## **SESSION 14 — LOVE HOPES ALL THINGS**

**1 Corinthians 13:7**

### **Session Aim**

To move participants from cynicism to confident hope rooted in God’s power to transform people.

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### **Opening Question**

What makes people cynical about change?

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### **Watch Video**

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### **Discussion Questions**

#### **Observation**

1. What is the difference between hope and wishful thinking?
2. Why does love refuse to write someone’s final chapter?

#### **Understanding**

3. How does cynicism affect relationships?
4. Why is Christian hope based on God’s character rather than human behavior?

### **Heart Reflection**

5. Who have you given up on internally?
6. How has God shown patience with your own growth?

### **Application**

7. How can you speak future instead of finality this week?
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### **Leader Insight Notes**

Cynicism protects from disappointment but prevents love.

Hope does not ignore reality — it trusts God is still working.

Words shape expectations; expectations shape relationships.

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### **Weekly Challenge**

Pray daily for one person you've lost hope in — and encourage them once this week.

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### **Prayer Focus**

Pray for renewed faith in God's transforming work in people.

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## **SESSION 15 — LOVE ENDURES ALL THINGS**

**1 Corinthians 13:7**

### **Session Aim**

To help participants understand love as commitment through difficulty, not emotion dependent on comfort.

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### **Opening Question**

What makes long-term relationships difficult to maintain?

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## Watch Video

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## Discussion Questions

### Observation

1. What does endurance mean in the passage?
2. How is endurance different from bearing?

### Understanding

3. Why do hardships reveal whether love is genuine?
4. How does God's enduring love motivate ours?

### Heart Reflection

5. Where are you tempted to withdraw from someone?
6. What fear makes endurance hard?

### Application

7. What step toward someone could you take instead of stepping away?
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## Leader Insight Notes

Endurance is covenant love — staying when leaving feels justified.

Endurance is not tolerating abuse but persevering through hardship.

Small faithful acts build strong relationships over time.

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## Weekly Challenge

Move one step toward someone you've been avoiding.

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## Prayer Focus

Pray for perseverance and renewed commitment in relationships.

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# SESSION 16 — LOVE NEVER ENDS

1 Corinthians 13:8

## Session Aim

To reorient participants toward eternal priorities and living for what lasts forever.

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## Opening Question

What things in life feel temporary? What feels lasting?

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## Watch Video

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## Discussion Questions

### Observation

1. What contrasts does Paul make between gifts and love?
2. Why is love the greatest of faith, hope, and love?

### Understanding

3. How does eternity change how we value relationships?
4. Why are loving actions eternal investments?

### Heart Reflection

5. Where are you investing energy into things that won't last?
6. How would your daily choices change if love was your main priority?

### Application

7. What intentional act of love can you practice daily this week?

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## Leader Insight Notes

Love lasts because God lasts.

Most of life is temporary — love is eternal.

Spiritual maturity is measured more by love than knowledge.

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## Weekly Challenge

Perform one intentional loving action every day this week.

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## Prayer Focus

Thank God for His unfailing love and ask Him to make your life centered on eternal priorities.

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## Final Encouragement for Leaders

The goal of this study is not mastering a definition — it is becoming a different kind of person.

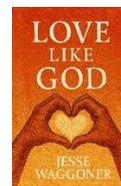
If your group becomes more patient, forgiving, hopeful, and Christlike, the study succeeded.

Lead gently.

Be honest.

Model vulnerability.

Love grows best in safe places.



Love Like God – Bible Study – Leader’s Guide

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