

# Be with One Another

## Discussion Guide

Week of June 4 - **"Love One Another"**

**Scripture verse: 1 Thessalonians 3:12**

**1 Peter 1:22**

The world around us is plagued with isolation, conflict, hatred, and superficiality. We feel alone, attacked, hurt, and taken advantage of. Is that really what God had in mind when he said, "it's not good for man to be alone?" The Bible is filled with instructions of how we can relate to one another. As followers of Jesus, we are called to a high standard of how we live with one another and the world around us. As we study this new series, "Be with One Another" we will focus on 9 "one another" characteristics that the church should practice. Let's begin with love.

### **LOOKING BACK:**

1. Last week you were challenged to set your hearts on things above, not on earthly things. Looking back, how did you do? When challenged with earthly reactions or temptations, were you able to set your heart on Christ and think beyond earthly feelings or actions?
2. What in the moment prompted you to not allow earthly motivators to take the lead? Have people share their experiences of how/when they kept a heavenly focus during an earthly situation.

## LOOKING UP:

1. Ask someone to read 1 Thessalonians 3:12
2. The word overflow leads us to believe Jesus doesn't want us to have "just enough" love for our neighbors. Take a minute and think on what overflowing love looks like in your own life. Share an example of how Jesus has allowed someone else to lavishly love you.
3. How does Pastor Phil end nearly every sermon? ("Let's go live and love like Jesus.") How might loving like Jesus with overflowing love change your normal week—at work, school, with your family? Share what you imagine Jesus has in mind with this type of abundant love in your own daily life.

### READ THE PASSAGE (1 Thess. 3:6-13)

Answer the first 2 questions after reading the passage

1. What stood out to you most?
2. What was challenging or hard to understand?
3. What does this teach us about God?
4. What does this teach us about people?

### RE-READ THE PASSAGE

Read passage again using another Bible translation... then answer the last 2 questions

## LOOKING FORWARD:

1. What does God say are his first and second greatest commandments? If you need a refresher, check out Matthew 22:37-39.

2. God says we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. Take two minutes to silently think of two ways you could love someone in this way. Keeping in mind the goal is for each group member to share with someone who is far from God but close in proximity to them. If anyone is willing to share who they have in mind, have them do so.
  
3. Read 1 Peter 1:22 Then make a tangible reminder (phone alarm, sticky note, etc.) to begin your day asking God to shine a light on those He wants you to reach with an overflowing love. Make notes throughout the week about how you've been able to increase your love and share that abundance with others close to you but far from Him.