

# BELOVED BE LOVED BE LOVE

## Growing Further Discussion Guide

### Be Love

#### Week 7: Love Is All We Need

Pastor Rick Long

*"I command you to love each other in the same way that I love you."*

**John 15:12 (NLT)**

Because we know that God is love, then the statement "Love is all we need" is not only a good statement, it is truth.

**OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.**

*Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always "me first," doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end. Love never dies... And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (MSG) and 13:13 (NIV)**

*Jesus replied: " '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.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

**Matthew 22:37-40 (NIV)**

## 1. GOD HAS CALLED US TO LOVE HIM AND LOVE OTHERS.

- How has the "Be Love" series and studies helped you do this better?
- Would you share a story of how you have demonstrated Love. No Matter What during these 7 weeks ?
- How have your relationships improved?

## 2. GOD HAS GIVEN US FIVE PURPOSES TO LIVE OUR LIVES FULFILLING.

Glorify God through Worship

Relate to everyone through Fellowship

Act like Jesus through Discipleship

Care for others through Ministry (specifically in the church)

Express God's love through my Mission (Evangelism)

- Which purposes seem to be the strongest in your life?
- Which purposes need the most improvement and how are you planning to work on them?
- Share a story of a purpose you may have strengthened during the past 40 days?

As we wrap up this 40 Days of *Be Love* Spiritual Journey, how do you plan to keep the focus on love alive every day ?

- What habits can strengthen your resolve to "Be Love"?
- Who needs your love the most right now?
- How do you plan to help make Grace a more loving place this year and in the years ahead?

On behalf of the entire Grace Staff, I would like to thank you for your faithfulness to God through our ministry here at Grace and I would like to encourage you to stay committed to this small group. God has called us to a local church to serve in, support financially and share our lives with. As your pastor, I love you and want God's richest blessings for your life. Let's make 2025 the year of love and let's make Grace the most loving church on earth.

I love you all,  
Pastor Rick Long

## Growing Further Discussion Guide Leader Notes

### Goals for this Week's Study

- Go around the group and share stories of how this series has impacted each of you.
- Pray for God's grace and faith in the members of your group as they work on loving others as He loves them.
- Discuss continuing the group after this series is over.

### Preparing to Lead Your Group

✓ **PRAY** for insight as you begin to prepare for leading your group. Ask for God's wisdom, that the Holy Spirit will be the teacher and that you will be God's instrument to lead the group to greater understanding and a willingness to commit to becoming more like God. Prayer should be your primary source of personal preparation for leading your group.

✓ **PLAN** where you want to take your group in the next 60–90 days. Is your group strong in some areas and weak in others? How can you challenge the members to live more balanced Christian lives? Consider God's five purposes for the church: Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry, Mission and Worship, and make a plan to encourage your group members to growth and commitment in their weak areas.

At **GRACE** we use our name for the 5 purposes:

Glorify God

Relate to everyone

Act like Jesus

Care for other

Express God's love

✓ **PONDER YOUR PROGRESS** after each session and at the end of a series. Reflect on what went well and what didn't. Re-evaluation is key to your growth as a leader. Consider whether your plan is being effective in moving the group to greater understanding and commitment. How are you doing with leading the discussion: is it stimulating, challenging, and meaningful? Are you able to keep the group on track? Do you need to make some changes?

### Using This Growing Further Discussion Guide

⇒ This Growing Further Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups there are too many questions to answer in one session together. After considering the needs of your group you may choose one of the following options:

- One section of questions
- One or two questions from each section

⇒ Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, add Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.

- ⇒ The questions relating to the five purposes are helpful to develop balance and spiritual maturity in our lives. You can bring your group to an awareness of their needs in these areas by using these questions as a regular part of each discussion.
- ⇒ Personal application is key to everyone's growth and should be included in every discussion. When asked how he or she intends to apply a certain principle a group member may say, "I need to spend more time in the Bible and in prayer." It is important for you to help group members make applications that are more specific and commit to a specific plan of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 30 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- ⇒ As the leader your goal is to help bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their need for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.