

## **Connect Group Notes – Week 2 - Wise up when it comes to love**

### **Welcome**

Sunday's message was focussed on titles of popular love songs.

*What is your favourite love song of all time?*

Ask this question or one like it.... *"what piece of advice about love were you given that proved to be either true or ridiculous?"*

### **Start thinking**

Love is the glue in all of our relationships – not just marriage. Relationships with our family and friends too.

#### **Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7**

- Today the word "love" seems to have many meanings. Give an example of some modern uses of the term love that may belittle its great meaning.
- This love seems so beautiful and simple in this passage. Why is loving like this so difficult?
- Why does Paul say that love will 'endure through every circumstance'?

### **Start sharing**

- When you compare the way you love others to this standard in 1 Corinthians 13, where do you fall short?

As followers of Jesus, we have a particular context that helps us to define what love is more clearly.

#### **Read 1 John 4:7-10**

- Based on these verses, what is the biblical meaning of love?

Love is the language of God to His children because it is His very essence. But God did more than shout down from heaven, "I love you!" to the people on earth. He demonstrated His love by sending Jesus to die on the cross. That's the nature of love—it's more than mere emotion or sentiment. True love is intentional.

- How does God's love for us transform the way we see other people?
- When we fail to love others, what does it reveal about our own relationship with God?

#### **Read Psalm 103:8**

- How does a true knowledge of God's love strengthen your walk of faith?

### **Start praying**

- Spend time reflecting on God's love for you, especially the moment you feel you have let God down.
- Ask God to enable us to love more like he does – unconditionally

### **Start doing**

What have you learned that will help you develop your relationships with others?

**Going deeper...** if your group wants to dig a little deeper....

There are **FOUR** Greek words in the bible used for love

Ask: *Can anyone remember what those Greek words are?*

**PHILIA** is about authentic friendship – this word expresses fondness, affection, delight and personal attachment. Phileo (from the root Philia) is also used for “kiss”.

A good biblical example is Romans 12:10

**EROS** is the word for sensual or romantic love. Love in the form of Eros seeks its own interest and satisfaction.

A good biblical example is 1 Corinthians 7:8-9 (*interesting verses*)

**STORGE** is the word for family love and describes the affectionate bond that develops naturally between parents and children, and brothers and sisters.

A good biblical example is Matthew 12:50

**AGAPE** is the highest of the four types of love in the Bible. This term defines God's immeasurable, incomparable love for humankind. It is the divine love that comes from God. Agape love is perfect, unconditional, sacrificial, and pure.

Good biblical examples are John 3:16; Romans 5:8

How do you feel about that statement that God's love is **for** you?

Never forget! God's love is constant, whatever – Romans 8:38-39.