



# WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Love Is....**

***Life is All About...***

**1 Corinthians 13:1-3**

## EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

## VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

*"If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,<sup>[a]</sup> but do not have love, I gain nothing." 1 Corinthians 13:1-3*

Studies show today that as a culture, we are worse than ever of being in true, authentic relationship with one another. We are losing the ability to relate to one another, Thomas says. This passage in Corinthians is at the heart of what it means to live an abundant life, and will serve as the basis for our new sermon series, "Love Is...."

Being involved in relationships which are built on the principles of love is what life is all about, Thomas says, and he warns us to not miss the point. We are made for connection, and without it our hearts would be restless.

- *Think of a time in your life when you had the strength of a community of authentic friendships, and a time when you did not. What were the differences?*

Thomas points out that in the English language, we use only one word for love, whereas in Greek, there are three such words. **Agape** is the Greek word for the purest kind of love that exists, the kind of love that pre-supposes action, the kind of love on which true human connection is based.

- *Jesus taught us the purest form of love through His sacrificial act on the cross. Thomas says our first step toward loving and serving others is to be open to the love that Jesus has for each of us. In giving and serving we find our true meaning and purpose. Who are you called to love and serve? How can we cultivate the desire within ourselves to love and serve?*
- *The beauty of understanding and experiencing true love and connection comes from being part of a community, not just part of a crowd. How are some ways this upcoming year you can live more closely in network with others?*

**Heavenly Father**, thank you for the gift of this community of believers here at Covenant with which you have so carefully placed us. Help us be open to the love that you have for us and to appreciate with all our hearts the purest form of love you gave us when you gave your only Son. **Amen.**

