

# Small Group Discussion Guide

VOL 4: Part 26: Authentic Love: Living The Gospel

**BIG Idea:** Authentic love is the gospel lived out—sincere, truthful, devoted, patient, generous, and visible in action.

**Application:** Live out authentic love in your relationships by letting the Holy Spirit transform your sincerity, truth, devotion, patience, and generosity, so that Christ is seen through you.

## Discussion Questions

**Icebreaker:** What's one example you've seen (in a friend, family member, or even in a stranger) of love that felt truly genuine?

1. Read Romans 12:9. What's the difference between pretending to love and actually loving? Why do you think Paul starts here?
2. Why does Paul tie together "loving what is good" with "hating what is evil" (Rom. 12:9b)? How does that shape our view of authentic love?
3. Jeremiah 17:9 says the heart is deceitful. How do we guard against letting our emotions redefine what's good or evil?
4. How does Romans 5:8 (Christ's love for us while we were still sinners) shape the way we love people who are difficult to love?
5. What does it practically look like to be "devoted to one another in love" as Paul commands in Romans 12:10?
6. Philippians 2:3 tells us to value others above ourselves. Share a time when you saw someone live that out. How can you practice this week?
7. Romans 12:11–12 calls for zeal, fervor, hope, patience, and prayer. Which of these do you find easiest to live out? Which is hardest?
8. In Romans 12:13, Paul calls us to meet needs and practice hospitality. What does hospitality look like for you, and how can your group live this out more intentionally?
9. What would change in our community if our love were consistently authentic?
10. Which one aspect of authentic love (sincere, truthful, devoted, honoring, patient, generous, or hospitable) do you most want to grow in right now?

**Prayer Prompt:** Spend time praying for God to remove surface-level love in your hearts, to ignite fresh zeal through the Spirit, and to help your group embody authentic love in practical ways that point people to Christ.

**Join us as we read the Bible together in 2025.** <https://bit.ly/ReadwithMe25>