

# I Choose Love

Connect Group Guide - 7.13.25

## Opening Prayer

### Key Takeaways:

1. Love is a choice, not just a feeling.
2. Love defies all odds and doesn't wait for perfect conditions.
3. Loving others often comes at a cost, requiring sacrifice.
4. We are called to love as Christ loved us.
5. The church, as the bride of Christ, needs our love and commitment.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Mike says, "Love is a choice." Can you share an example from your life where you had to choose to love someone even when it was difficult?
2. How does understanding God's love for us impact our ability to love others?
3. The message mentions that "love defies all odds." What are some challenges in your life where choosing love could make a difference?
4. Reflect on the story of the woman caught in adultery. How does Jesus' response demonstrate choosing love over judgment? How can we apply this in our daily lives?
5. Pastor Mike talks about the cost of love. What are some ways loving others has cost you something? How has it been rewarding despite the cost?
6. How does the image of the church as the "bride of Christ" change your perspective on your role within the church community?
7. The message emphasizes surrendering everything to God. What areas of your life do you find most challenging to surrender? Why?

### Practical Applications:

1. This week, intentionally choose to show love to someone who is difficult to love. Reflect on how this impacts both you and them.

2. Evaluate your gifts, talents, and resources. How can you use these to better serve and support your local church?
3. Write a prayer of surrender, offering specific areas of your life to God that you've been holding back.
4. Practice responding with love in a situation where you might typically react with judgment or criticism.
5. Identify one way you can sacrificially love someone this week, whether through time, resources, or service.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Close the session by praying for each group member to grow in their understanding and practice of Christ-like love in all areas of their lives.

### **Scripture for Further Study:**

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
- Romans 5:8
- 1 John 4:19
- John 15:13

Encourage group members to read and reflect on these passages throughout the week.