

**2 Love Comes to Town Week 2 Love Actually**  
**Week of October 5, 2025**  
**1st Corinthians 13:4-6**  
**Discussion Guide**

## **ICEBREAKER**

Think of one of the VERY DRAINING PEOPLE (VDP) in your life? [Difficult – Demanding – Disappointing – Destructive] Without naming names, share one experience with one of these types and your current approach for interacting with them.

## **A APPLY THE BIBLE**

If we are honest, we have no ability on our own to love difficult people. The only way we will be able to love well, is to look at Jesus, who is our model for love. “Our relationship with others is molded not merely by what I want, but by the examples Jesus provides. I’m not only going to think about how I want to be treated (the golden rule), I am going to look at how Jesus treats people. If I am going to live out of sacrificial love, it’s not going to happen accidentally. It’s going to take a step—a conscious decision to act towards others the way Jesus acts towards me.”—Tom Holladay (The Relationship Principles of Jesus)

Let’s look at what Jesus says about loving others.

Read together Luke 6:32-36

Q1. What kind of love is Jesus talking about here?

Q2. What reaction do you have to Jesus’ words? Is this kind of love even humanly possible?

Jesus doesn’t just TELL us how to love.... He lives it! Read some these examples of how he loved those VDPs, people who were “Difficult, Demanding, Disappointing, and/or Destructive.” Have people in your group read: John 3:1-21; Matthew 12:1-13; Luke 14:1-14 and answer these questions:

Q3. As you read these interactions, how does Jesus respond to those who oppose him?

Q4. How are Jesus’ interactions different from yours?

Q5. As you think about the person from the icebreaker, can you think about them in a new way based on how Jesus interacts with people?

For most people, Jesus’ words raise questions like:

- “Does this mean I let people hurt or take advantage of me?”
- “Does this mean that Christians are supposed to be spineless cowards?” If we look at Jesus’ life, he was anything but a spineless coward— He reacted in every situation in a

different way: sometimes he spoke the truth in LOVE, He was silent when necessary, but ultimately loved sacrificially and with vulnerability.

Q6. Do you struggle with being TOO loving? Is there such a thing?

Q7. How do we reconcile loving enemies without being taken advantage of?

Q8. Have you ever asked God for strength to act with love toward someone who is treating you as an enemy? Why or why not? What was the outcome?

We don't want to idealize loving our enemies... this makes us give up before we have started! Let's acknowledge how difficult this can be and start small, with one step. Read Romans 12:1 in the Message version of the Bible:

"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life— and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him."

Think of one small step you can take to love right where you are in your everyday life. Here is an example to get your discussion started:

Jean's dad was an alcoholic and was not there for her or her family when she was a child. She knew God was calling her to forgive him, but she was continually disappointed in every attempt to have a relationship with him. She was bitter and angry which carried over into other areas of her life. One day, she decided to call him and tell him that she forgave him and was working on letting go of the hurt and anger she held onto for so many years. They don't have an ideal relationship and she puts healthy boundaries between them, but her love for her dad is growing.

Q9. Is Jean's relationship with her dad resolved? What one step did Jean take?

Q10. How has this step helped Jean?

Q11. Share one practical step you can take with one VDP person in your life that you could begin to love in this way.

## **ⓑ BEAR BURDENS**

You may have tried to love "VDPs" the way that Jesus is calling you to and stumbled over and over again. Don't give up! On a card or piece of paper, jot down the first name of one person the Holy Spirit has put on your heart through this lesson. Ask your group to pray for you over the next 5 weeks as you ask Jesus to teach you how to love this person. Pray for small practical, concrete steps to move closer to this person in love. Journal the process and continue to share your progress with your group.

## **ⓒ CHANCE TO SERVE**

**Woodside's Church Has Left the Building Day of Service is coming up November 2nd.** Groups, families, EVERYONE is invited to participate in this awesome outreach, applying in practical ways all that we are learning about loving others. Does your group want to serve together? Take time now to decide on a project your group can head up. Reach out to Lisa Gayle, Director of Missions with your ideas: [Lisa@woodside-church.org](mailto:Lisa@woodside-church.org).