

# FOR THESE CITIES. FOR ALL PEOPLE.

## STUDY GUIDE.

Love One Another. 9.28.25

### Message.

The defining "family mark" of a Christian is agapē love—not a passive feeling, but a sacrificial, active commitment to the good of others. This love, which originates from a deep relationship with God, should overflow to all people, starting with fellow believers to build unity and then extending to unbelievers as an act of mercy and witness. In a world fractured by division, this love serves as a powerful testament to one's faith, proving that you can't claim to be part of God's family without displaying its mark. Pastor Derik challenged us to perform a deliberate act of love, such as offering forgiveness or generosity, to transform Bridge Cities Church into the most loving place in the Quad Cities. *Loving people show that we truly love God. #bccBIGidea*

### Prayer.

Heavenly Father,  
You are love. My ability to truly love others comes from You. As I spend time in the Scriptures, solidify this truth in my heart and mind so that I can't help but seek after You. Fill me up with Your loving Spirit, so I can show Your love to others. Show me, Father, where I need to be more loving in my home, my work, my church, and my community. Amen.

### Scripture.

1 John 4:7-12, 20

Supporting Verses: John 13:35, Luke 10:25-29, Galatians 6:10

### Engage.

Read 1 John 4:7-8. How does this challenge the idea that love is just a feeling or an emotion we generate on our own? What does it mean to you that our ability to love is directly connected to our relationship with Him?

1 John 4:20 makes a bold claim: "Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar." How does this verse, along with John 13:35 (the "new command"), serve as a self-check for our faith? In what practical ways is our love for others the ultimate proof of our love for God?

Read Luke 10:25-29. Who are the people or groups in our own lives that we are tempted to exclude from our definition of "neighbor"? How do the other verses challenge us to expand that definition?

Read 1 John 4:12. Can you share a time when you saw a tangible picture of God's love through the actions of another Christian? How does our love for each other make the invisible God visible to the world?

Read Galatians 6:10. Why do you think the Bible places a special emphasis on loving fellow believers? How can we balance this priority with the clear command to love our neighbors who are not believers?

After reading all these passages, what is one specific relationship or situation this week where you feel God is calling you to more intentionally live out His command to love? What practical step can you take?