



## Home Group Discussion Guide

*September 12-18, 2021 – The Soul of Community – a Devoted Community*

**Devotion:** There are many different passages that are read at weddings, but one of my favorites is from Romans 12. There's something so tangible and emotional about the way the author describes how we are to hang on to one another. As we enter another season of gathering in community as a home group, we want to focus on how God calls us to live together and to grow together. We want to look at some of the "one another" passages and scriptures that teach us how we are to live in relationship. In Romans 12:9, Paul writes that love must be sincere. The Greek word there means without hypocrisy. We cannot be "two-faced" by loving and hating, being kind and being rude, speaking well and speaking against if we are to love one another as Christ teaches us.

I wish it was easier to tell who is a Christ-follower and who isn't. In a way, wouldn't it be easier if life was like a Dr. Seuss book where we either had a star or we didn't and then we would be able to know who to trust and who would be kind? We would know who will have our back and who won't. Wishful thinking! And yet, shouldn't it be so evident by the way we treat each other? The gift of a devoted community, centered on Christ is that we will always have someone who will be devoted to us in a way that reflects Jesus' devotion to His children. May we be the kind of community that is devoted to one another and who loves sincerely.

I love this quote from Richard L. Evans: "Sincere love is something that sacrifices not something that indulges itself. Sincere love is responsible. It would never knowingly hurt but heal."

### **Scripture – Read Romans 12:9-13**

- What does devotion look like in a Christ-centered small group community and how does that look different than what we experience within the world? (or how *should* it look different)
- This passage gives us a way to keep our "spiritual fervor." According to this passage, what are we to do? What are some other ways you are keeping that fervor or enthusiasm, especially in a time when there's much that can drain us?
- What is your plan to be intentional about living out this passage this week?

**How is it with your soul?** (*Go around and share as you look back to the "good and the bad" of this week and then look forward to what you can do or where you want to see God move this week.*)

- Where have you seen God this week?
- Where have you struggled this week?
- How can you be open to God/the Holy Spirit this week?

### **Prayers**