



## Study Guide

For Group or Personal Bible Study

Compassion

Week of April 12, 2009

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### Warm-Up

We're going to be looking at the topic Compassion or Love. Name your favorite love song or romantic movie and tell why it's your favorite.

### Opening Prayer

Leader or conversational prayer: Welcome God into your study; praise Him for His loving nature and thank Him for His unconditional love.

### Study & Discussion

In Sunday's message we learned a loose definition for compassion: loving enough to take action. Share any insights, applications or questions you have from that teaching.

Review the three "love truths" discussed on Sunday:

Love Truth #1: Love Is A Choice.

*"And over all these virtues, put on love... Colossians 3:14*

What are some specific choices that, if made, would amp-up a relationship?

Is there a specific "choice" you need to make in order to amp up your relational compassion? Would anyone like to share his or hers?

Love Truth #2: Love Is Submission.

*"...submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."  
Ephesians 5:21 (NLT)*

How do you respond to the idea of submitting to others?

What often causes "submission" to be a bad word?

Note: Jesus was willing to submit to the will of his Father and to the agonies of the cross.

Read: Ephesians 5:18b

How does v.18b affect your attitude toward mutual submission?

Love Truth #3: Love Is Action.

*Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. 1 John 3:18 (NLT)*

Share one practical, yet relational way you can show your love by your actions this week? (Be ready to share your experience next week.)

Read: 1 John 4:7-12

What is the source of human love?

On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being highest, how convinced are you that God is deeply in love with you?

What can stand in the way of feeling convinced about God's love?

What do you think it looks like when God's love is brought to full expression in us?

### Closing Prayer

Conversational prayer: voice your requests to God and others; ask God for wisdom, courage and opportunity to apply the Love Truths in your relationships this week.

### Resources For Digging Deeper

The Love Dare – Stephen Kendrick

Love & Respect – Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

Meditations on Proverbs for Couples – Dr.s Les & Leslie Parrott

Power of Prayer to Change Your Marriage – Stormie Omartian

The Five Love Languages – Gary Chapman