



GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

Love That Doesn't Keep Score

Speaker: Jill Smith

Highlighted Scripture

• 1 Corinthians 13:5

"It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."

Jill uses this verse to examine love in the relationships closest to us. Biblical love isn't only something we talk about or extend when it's easy. It affects how we speak to people, whose needs we prioritize, how quickly we become angry, and whether we continue keeping score of past hurts.

Discussion Questions

- **Jill says this message brought some "godly conviction" into her own life. Which part of 1 Corinthians 13:5 is most challenging for you personally?**
- **What are some ways we can dishonor the people closest to us through our words, tone, or actions without realizing we're doing it?**

- Jill asks whether we wake up thinking, "How can I serve that person?" How would our closest relationships change if we approached them with that mindset?
- What does "keeping no record of wrongs" look like when someone has hurt or disappointed us more than once?
- Jill points out how easily we can say things like "you always..." or "you never..." during disagreements. Why can bringing an entire history of mistakes into a present disagreement be damaging?
- How might an interruption sometimes become an unexpected opportunity to demonstrate God's love?

Reflection Challenge

Focus especially on how you love the people who see you day in and day out.

Ask yourself:

- Does the way I speak communicate value and respect?
- Am I more focused on what I need from someone or on how I can love and serve them?
- Am I keeping a mental record of someone's past mistakes?
- Do the people closest to me receive the same patience and grace I readily give to other people?

Try this:

- Before beginning your day, ask: "How can I love the people closest to me well today?"

- **Pay attention to your use of words like always and never during disagreements.**
- **When an inconvenient interruption comes, pause before reacting and consider whether it could be an opportunity to serve.**
- **Bring one recurring frustration to God and ask the Holy Spirit to work on your heart before focusing on what needs to change in the other person.**

Remember

- **Love does not dishonor others.**
- **Love isn't constantly focused on itself.**
- **Love doesn't build a case from someone's past mistakes.**
- **The people closest to us should experience our love, not just hear us talk about it.**
- **Forgiveness means refusing to continually weaponize yesterday's wrongs.**
- **Sometimes an interruption is an opportunity to love.**
- **We can ask the Holy Spirit to teach us to love better.**

Prayer

Father God,

Thank You for loving me with a love I could never earn. Help me examine the way I love the people You have placed closest to me.

**Show me when my words or actions dishonor someone.
Reveal the places where I have become self-focused or where
I have been keeping a record of someone's mistakes. When I'm
frustrated or interrupted, help me pause long enough to
recognize opportunities to demonstrate Your love.**

**Holy Spirit, work in my heart. Teach me to serve, forgive,
show grace, and love others more faithfully—not only when
it's easy, but especially when it's difficult.**

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

