



# TALK IT OVER GROUP GUIDE 20170423

## WELCOME LOVE PEOPLE EXTRAVAGANTLY

How do you show love? Consider every person in your group this week and how you could practically, in some small way, show them the love of God.

## WORSHIP LOVE GOD EXTRAVAGANTLY

**SING** How do we express our love towards a God who first loved us? Consider ways in which you could stir your group to show their love toward God. Perhaps focus on songs that speak of His perfect love towards us.

## WORD IMPART VICTORIOUS LIFESTYLE

### Compelled by Love

This past week our *Church of the Nations* family hosted our annual southern hemisphere conference at Victory Church, J-Bay themed 'Compelled by Love' based on 2 Corinthians 5:14-15. The first line of our motto at Harvest is 'Love Extravagantly' and it sums up, in our words, the Great Commandment to 'love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind and to love your neighbor as yourself'. In a nutshell with everything you are and with everything you've got – love God and love people extravagantly.

### Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 and Discuss

1. Some versions say "For the love of Christ compels, controls or constrains us? What do these three words mean to you? How do they make you feel? What does this suggest about the love of God?

The power of God's perfect love in our lives should govern our lives; it directs us in how we should live and behave towards Him and to others.

2. Imagine if you will the great sad movies of our day where the hero sacrifices himself for another. Name some of these movies that impacted you the most. These stories resonate with us, because they reflect on a micro scale the grand narrative of our faith. For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son; Jesus (**John 3:16**) and God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (**Romans 5:8**). In comparison to the movies which impacted you, how does the love of God make you feel?
3. What does it mean, and what does it look like practically, for those who live in Christ to no longer live for ourselves but for him who for our sake died and was raised? Since we have been raised to life in Christ what should our response to Christ's sacrificial love look like on a day to day basis?

The rest of 2 Corinthians 5 speaks about us being new creations in Christ, not those who live according to the flesh, and then refers to the 'message of reconciliation'; The Gospel, which has been entrusted to us as His ambassadors. His love compels us to share His message of love with others with a heart of full of love. We love because he first loved us. **1 John 4:19**

"Anyone who discovers who he is, would give everything. He's the pearl of great price. He's the lover of our souls..." **Heidi Baker, Compelled by Love documentary.**

Share stories of modern day real life sacrificial love in action.

## **WORKS** BE A RESOURCE + TOUCH THE World

**PRAY** Lord Jesus, would you stir your perfect love in our hearts so that we would, not only express our love to you more appropriately, but would you stir in us a love so extravagant, that we would be compelled to lay everything down for the joy of knowing You and reaching a world in need of your love.