



Small Group Study Guide

Series: **SAFEHOUSE**

**Sermon 1: LET'S MAKE LOVE...A VERB!**

April 12, 2026 | CrossPointe Church

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◆ **INTRODUCTION:** In this first message of the SAFEHOUSE series, we discover that love is not something we fall into—it's something we choose to live out. While culture teaches us to follow our feelings, Jesus commands us to take action: *"Love one another."* This message calls us to move beyond emotion and build relationships on intentional choices, mutual submission, and Christ-centered love. When we make love a verb, we don't just strengthen our marriages—we create homes that become SAFEHOUSES for our families and a legacy for our children.

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◆ **KEY SCRIPTURES**

**Colossians 3:12–14:** Paul describes the qualities that build healthy relationships—compassion, kindness, humility, patience, and forgiveness—but emphasizes that love is what holds everything together. Love is the binding force that makes all other virtues work.

**Genesis 1:27 & 1 John 4:8:** We are created in the image of God, and God is love. This means our desire for lasting love is not accidental—it's part of how God designed us.

**Romans 8:38:** Nothing can separate us from the love of God. Even in broken relationships, God's love remains constant and faithful.

**John 13:34:** Jesus gives a "new" command: love one another as He has loved us. This redefines love as an action, not just a feeling.

**Ephesians 5:21:** *"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."* This describes mutual submission—choosing the other person over yourself as an act of love.

**Philippians 2:3:** We are called to reject selfishness and instead treat others as more important than ourselves. This is love in action.

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◆ **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. PT said, *"The foundation for staying in love is to make love a verb."* What does that look like practically in your current relationships?
2. Read **John 13:34**. Why do you think Jesus had to redefine love as a command instead of a feeling?
3. PT emphasized: *"If you wait on a feeling, you will drift. If you move in obedience, you will build."* Where have you seen this play out in your own life?
4. Read **Colossians 3:12–14**. Which of these qualities (compassion, kindness, humility, patience, forgiveness) do you struggle with most? Why?
5. PT mentioned people who are relationship lazy and won't work on their marriage. Instead, they look for an opportunity to "check out." He said, *"You're not escaping dysfunction—you're relocating it."* Why is it important to deal with personal issues instead of avoiding them?

6. Read **Philippians 2:3**. What does it look like to “*consider others more significant than yourselves*” in marriage or close relationships?
  7. PT told us that children learn love by watching us. In what ways are you modeling love (or not modeling it) to the next generation?
  8. PT said, “*Love that lasts is not found—it is built.*” What intentional steps can you take this week to start building instead of just reacting?
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#### ◆ PT’s BEST QUOTES

- “*The foundation for staying in love is to make love a verb.*”
  - “*Love is not something you fall into—it’s something you live out.*”
  - “*Your children are watching—you’re not just building a marriage, you’re shaping a legacy.*”
  - “*What God can restore is always greater than what you can replace.*”
  - “*If you walk away without doing everything you can to heal what’s broken, you are not escaping dysfunction—you are relocating it.*”
  - “*The only path to something better is through transformation—not relocation.*”
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#### ◆ APPLICATION/ACTION PROMPTS

- Identify **one specific way** you can “make love a verb” this week (words, actions, attitude).
  - Have an honest conversation with your spouse (or a trusted person) about where growth is needed.
  - Stop keeping score—choose one area where you will intentionally serve instead of react.
  - Pray daily for your relationship and ask God to change *you*, not just the other person.
  - Commit to being present for the full SAFEHOUSE series and apply each week’s teaching.
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#### ◆ CLOSING PRAYER (FOR GROUP)

Heavenly Father, thank You for bringing us together today. Thank You for Your Word that teaches us how to love—not based on feelings, but through action and obedience. Help us to make love a verb in our homes, our relationships, and our daily lives.

Lord, strengthen every marriage, restore what is broken, and give us the humility to put others before ourselves. Teach us to reflect Your love in the way we speak, act, and respond.

We pray for every person at CrossPointe—that they would grow in their faith, find meaningful community in small groups, and boldly invite others to experience what You are doing here.

Let our homes become SAFEHOUSES—places of truth, grace, and stability. We ask all of this in the name of Jesus, Amen.

**PLEASE TAKE A GROUP PICTURE AND TAG PT (Franklin Tracy Pounders) and Tabatha Pankey ON FACEBOOK !!!**