



# Sermon-Based Small Group Leader Notes

For the week of November 6, 2011 (week 8 of 10)

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## Introduction

### Topic: The Idol of Love

Sermon Title: "Make It All About Love"

Sermon Series: *How to Wreck Your Life* (week 4 of 5)

Scripture: Judges 14 & 16

Sermon by: Pastor Harrington

### Goals for This Gathering

- To discuss the homework
- To pray together
- To look at how we view love in our lives and discuss ways to prevent allowing love to become an idol
- Discuss any changes in day or time that might need to be made because of the upcoming holidays

### Prayer

- Take prayer requests and praises
- Pray for all Small Groups meeting at Northwest and in homes
- Pray for the spiritual growth of your group

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## Getting Started

The questions in this section allow for both fun (q.1) and serious (q.3) answers. Have some answers ready for **questions 1 & 3** to help encourage others to answer. For **question 4**, consider how Pastor Tom's sermon can help answer this question. Jesus modeled for us a perfect love that is only found in God. Asking us to have *this* kind of love is the new command. What makes this love so unique?

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## Into the Bible

In this section, participants have the opportunity to look at two other passages from the Bible that give us a view of what love should be.

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 lists the qualities of love.
- Matthew 22:36-40 makes it clear where our priorities should be.

**Question 7** is very open to discussion. Love plays such a big role in our lives, yet it often falls into the category of being an idol because of our imperfect understanding of love. If we completely followed the commands given in the 1 Corinthians and Matthew passages, how would this impact our perception of love and its influence in our lives?

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## Digging Deeper

- The questions in this section look at our individual situations and may invite some to share very personal stories.
- Allow your group to answer these more personal questions as they feel comfortable, perhaps even sharing an example of your own.
- For **question 7**, consider how the 1 Corinthians 13 and Matthew 22 passages connect. If we put a lot of time, energy, and thought into how we love people in our lives, can we still make sure to love God above everything else in our lives?
- For **question 8**, allow group members to think about their own personal responses. It is not necessary for people to share their responses, so be sensitive to your group and if you would like to open it up for members to share their responses.
- Before praying, allow your group members to think about **question 11** and the thoughts below it. It is OK to allow for quiet reflection, so encourage your group to take a couple of minutes to think about what roles love (whether it be received or given) has played in their lives.
- Close with prayer, praying for each other and for God's wisdom about love in our lives.

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## Prayer Requests and Closing Prayer