



DISCUSSION GUIDE

One Another

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One Another

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“By this everyone will know that you are
my disciples, if you love one another.”

JOHN 13:35

PREFACE

One Another is two words in English, but it's only one word in Greek: ἀλλήλων (ah-LAY-loan). It's used 100 times in 94 New Testament verses. 47 of those verses give instructions to the church, and 60% of those instructions come from Paul. A closer study of the verses with “*one another*” reveals certain themes. One third of the “one-another” commands deal with unity of the church, another third, instructs Christians to love one another. About 15% stress an attitude of humility among believers.

Make sure you read these in context! These commands come from Jesus, Peter, John, Paul, and James, and they are scattered across the New Testament. Dig into these passages to see what the author was taking about.

The phrase “*One Another*” is a phrase study concerning relationships in the body of Christ. This study is focused at strengthening us in one of the areas most frequently addressed by Christ, Paul and other New Testament writers. In

Christ's prayer for his disciples, he prays for this characteristic of “*One-Another-ness*”. In this prayer we learn He desires that we love one another as He has loved us. As we live and interact with others, we come to realize that this command is both a challenge and an incredible witness. Satan works hard to defeat us in this area, because he knows it affects our witness to the very love that Jesus gave to the world.

I pray that the Lord grows and blesses you as study and sharpen your desire to love as He loves.

In Christ,
Zwai



Please encourage your group members to make use of the Daily Devotional Guide for the series ruc.org.za/one-another

INTRODUCTION

There is a little Greek word that has a lot to teach us about how we treat others. It is the word “*allelon*” which is usually translated “*one another*”. This word occurs a number of times in the Greek New Testament and is used in all but 5 books of the New Testament (1&2 Timothy, Philemon, 3 John and Jude). We are going to spend the next few weeks looking at these “*one another*” passages of scripture so that it will encourage us to treat others with love, care, compassion, hospitality, and so much more.

READ

Read the following verses and answer the questions for each one:

- **Romans 12:16**
- **Galatians 6:2**
- **James 5:16**

DISCUSS

TRUTH, EQUIPPING, & ACCOUNTABILITY

- What impact would it have on your relationships if you really did what these verses say?
- What would happen in the church if every single Christian lived out these verses?
- In John 17:23, how does Jesus tell us the world will know that we come from Christ?
- How might the world see the church and

Christians differently if we really lived these out?

- Have you ever been around a group of Christians that thrived on conflict and drama? How was it?

As we study these different commands telling us how God wants us to treat each other the goal is to not be only hearers but doers of the Word. We must ‘fight’ to put into practice so that God’s love can shine through us and be more than just good thoughts to discussion.

MISSION & SUPPLICATION

We have been saved to bear witness to those in our homes, community, work/school, and places of recreation. The following questions are focused on growing our intentionality in these environments that God has placed us in.

- How many neighbours do you know?
- What have we lost as a society by becoming more isolated?
- How might your CG provide a sense of community for those around you?
- Who are some people you know that you could invite to a social gathering that might benefit from your “one another-ness”?

Spend some time this week really thinking about the people around you. Pray for them. Talk with them and be a blessing to their lives.

BEAR ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS

The troubles of this world are manifold and relentless. It is not easy to stay focused on heaven that we remain unperturbed by the afflictions of earthly life. We are commanded, of course, to set our minds on things above, not on earthly things (Col. 3:2), but even the most committed believer will testify that earthly trials sometimes obscure the heavenly perspective. We worry. We grieve. We stumble. We strain under the toil of our daily labours. We feel guilty of our fallen condition. Scripture encourages us to look into the things that are unseen (2 Cor. 4:18). A scholar has remarked that we must not allow the burdens of this life to divert our hearts from heaven. How is that possible?

This makes the body of Christ so important. It is the duty and delight of all believers to help bear one another's burdens. When someone struggles, we help them along. No person should be an Island. This is so countercultural. Everything in society is pushing towards independence and self-absorption. We as the body of Christ have an opportunity to model what is different as we bear witness in this universe. We fulfil the moral requirement of the law by loving our neighbour. How do we love him or her? By bearing his burdens.

READ

- **Galatians 6:2**
- **Romans 15:14**

DISCUSS

TRUTH & EQUIPPING

- What does Paul command the Galatian church to do?
- What is the context of this command to bear one another's burdens?
- How might you identify a need to be met and help meet it?
- What do you do if the burden is too big for you to help with by yourself?
- What do you do if the person you are helping doesn't care to help themselves?

ACCOUNTABILITY

- What burdens do you have that you struggle to bear on your own?
- What makes asking for and/or receiving help quite hard to do?

MISSION & SUPPLICATION

- How can your group bear the burdens of other people?
- Who can you commit to pray for in your immediate environment?

WEEK 3



LOVE ONE ANOTHER

READ

- **Romans 12:9-21**
- **Romans 13:8-10**
- **1 Thess 3:12-13**

TRUTH & EQUIPPING

- How should love be in believers' lives?
- How can believers show sincere love?
- What should be hated by believers?
- In Romans 13:8-10, Paul says that God tells us to do and not do many things in Scripture but love covers all of them; So how does following the command to be loving actually fulfill these commands?

ACCOUNTABILITY

- What makes loving one another difficult as believers?
- How does looking to Christ's example help us overcome those difficulties?
- How do we find the balance between disagreeing or even having to confront someone about something while still being loving?
- Do you think you have been difficult for someone else to love?

MISSION & PRAYER

- How can you as a group practice loving one another?
- Without naming names, think of some people you really struggle to love? What can you do to increase your love for that person/those people?

WEEK 4

SERVE ONE ANOTHER

READ

- **1 Peter 4:7-11**

TRUTH & EQUIPPING

- What implications does Peter give them based on the fact that the end is near?
- With what attitude are we to serve one another?
- How does love cover a multitude of sins?
- What are to do with the gifts that we have?
- Our serving and hospitality must be rooted in what?
- How does our hospitality actually bring glory to God?

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Peter calls the church to show hospitality to others without grumbling. Why would someone complain in being hospitable to others?
- What would grumbling/complaining show about their heart?
- Are you aware of your spiritual gifts? And are you using them to serve others?
- What are some creative ways can we use our gifts for others?

MISSION & SUPPLICATION

- Do you think you can use hospitality to bear witness of Christ to others?
- Share some ways we can show hospitality to others

WEEK 5



BEAR WITH ONE ANOTHER

READ

- **Colossians 3:12-17**

TRUTH & EQUIPPING

- How does Paul describe believers in v12?
- Why is our identity as believers in Christ an important starting point when talking about forgiving each other?
- What are we challenged to be 'clothed' in?
- What is the motivator to forgive others?
- What are we challenged to put on above 'all these'?
- What does letting the Peace of Christ rule in our hearts mean?
- In verse 16, what are believers called to?

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Do you find it hard to forgive others? Why or why not?
- Is there someone in your life that you are struggling to forgive?

MISSION & SUPPLICATION

Share with your group how they can keep you accountable in living out this command

WEEK 6



CONFESS TO ONE ANOTHER

READ

- **James 5:13-20**

MISSION & SUPPLICATION

Who are praying for this week?

TRUTH & EQUIPPING

- From observing this passage, what does confession to each other produce?
- How is the prayer of a righteous person described?
- Whose example are we given to follow in our prayer lives?
- Do you have this kind of faith as you pray?
- What role do believers play or should play in each other's lives according to verse 19?

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Are you in the habit of choosing to confess your sins to God and others?
- Who keeps you accountable in your walk with the Lord?
- Is your group a safe place to share openly about your own struggles? Why or why not?

**Confession and accountability are good for us as believers, but they can't be forced*