

MON 10/18

- ✓ **SCRIPTURE** John 3:30
- ✓ **THOUGHT** More of Jesus! "He must become greater; I must become less." [NIV] John the Baptist said this of Jesus when Jesus began his ministry. What a great example for us! The more of Jesus that we have in our lives, the more love we will have in our lives. The love of Jesus is transformational, and as it permeates our lives, our ways are replaced.
- ✓ **PRAYER** God, this week, I want to focus on doing more of the things that Jesus would do. Show me areas of my life that need to be transformed by your love. Amen.

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TUES 10/19

- ✓ **SCRIPTURE** Psalm 37:8
- ✓ **THOUGHT** Anger hurts. "Stop being angry! Turn from your rage! Do not lose your temper—it only leads to harm." [NLT] Have you recently struggled with things easily leading you to anger? Notice today how many times you become angry. Ask God to lead you into peaceful responses to disappointments rather than harmful words or actions.
- ✓ **PRAYER** God, sometimes I lose my temper. I am sorry for the ways that I harm my relationships in anger. I want more of your peace in my life. Amen.

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WED 10/20

- ✓ **SCRIPTURE** Psalm 86:15
- ✓ **THOUGHT** Compassion is key. "But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness." [NIV] God is compassionate toward us, and no matter the ways we have failed, God's love abounds. "Abounds" means there is a lot of it, copious amounts, enough to cover.
- ✓ **PRAYER** God, I am amazed by your ways. Fill me with compassion for others so that I see them as you do. Amen.

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THURS 10/21

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Proverbs 15:1
- ✓ THOUGHT Speak gently. "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." [NIV] In our culture, we aren't often encouraged to speak gently. Sometimes gentleness can be seen as weakness, but the Bible's advice to us rings true. The more harsh our words are, the more harsh the response we receive will likely be. We can help lead others to peace if we speak with gentleness.
- ✓ PRAYER God, remind me that my tone of voice and my word choices matter. I am sorry that I sometimes lose my temper, please help me to grow in the area of gentleness. Amen.

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FRI 10/22

- ✓ SCRIPTURE 1 John 4:16
- ✓ THOUGHT Rely on God's love. "And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them." [NIV] Sit in silence for a couple of minutes and rest in God's love today. The more we experience the love of God, the more of it we will have to share.
- ✓ PRAYER Loving God, bathe me in your love. Thank you for this moment to pause, rest, and experience renewal. Amen.

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SAT 10/23

- ✓ SCRIPTURE 1 John 3:18
- ✓ THOUGHT We must do! "Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions." [NLT] As caregivers, we cannot rely on our words to do the heavy-lifting. The things we do each and every day have a far greater impact on others than the things that we say!
- ✓ PRAYER God, I need your strength as I try to make the right choices each day. I know how it feels to have someone say one thing and do another. Help my words to match my actions so that I can be an authentic influence in my relationships. Amen.

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GROUP GUIDE

- ✓ **PRAYER** **God, we acknowledge that you are already here. May our hearts be open to your presence and direction. Amen.**

- ✓ **BIG IDEA** **Love isn't easily angered or self-seeking. As we guide the younger generations, we must love as Jesus taught us to love.**

- ✓ **READ** **1 Corinthians 13:5-7**

- ✓ **DISCUSS**
 - Read 1 Corinthians 13:5-7 out loud. What stands out to you?
 - Are you easily angered? Do you internalize or externalize it?
 - Answer this question within the context of family: When you're angry, what is it that you want that you aren't getting, generally speaking?
 - Are you a record keeper? Do you tend to keep score and on occasion, remind people of the score? What do you think fuels that in you?
 - When it comes to family, what is your North Star? What is the organizing principle in your home? (Obedience? Respect? Achievement? Something Else?)
 - If you're a parent with kids still in your home, what can you do differently to parent toward healthy adult relationships with your children?
 - What portions of 1 Corinthians 13 present the biggest struggle for you? What portions would you say are your strength?

- ✓ **Pray** **God, we want your love to permeate who we are and to transform our relationships. When we aren't sure what to say or do, help us to consider what love requires of us. We look to you as our guiding light. Please give us the courage to respond to your direction. Amen.**