

Weekend Teaching Discussion Guide

True Love – Week 1: Phileo (Brotherly Love)

WARM-UP QUESTION

The English language uses the word "love" for many things (people... and steaks). When you hear the word "**love**," what kind usually comes to mind first—and why?

DISCUSS

1. Understanding Phileo (Brotherly Love)

Pastor Drew said the Greek language uses multiple words for love, each with a distinct meaning.

- Why do you think it's important that scripture distinguishes between different kinds of love?
- How is **Phileo (brotherly love)** different from romantic love (Eros) or general kindness?
- When you think of *Phileo*, what words from the teaching stand out most to you? (*Safety, security, acceptance, vulnerability, encouragement, no judgment, etc.*)

2. Why We Need Deep Relationships

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 (NIV).

- What benefits of close relationships are listed in this passage?
- Which line or image stands out to you the most, and why?
- Pastor Drew suggested three common responses:
 - "I wish I had someone like that."
 - "Thank God I have someone like that."
 - "I need someone like that."

Which one best describes where you are right now?

3. Biblical Examples of Phileo Relationships

Read *Proverbs 17:17* and *Proverbs 18:24* (NLT).

- What do these verses teach us about the nature of true friendship?
- How is a Phileo relationship tested or revealed during adversity?
- Why do you think Scripture places such a high value on faithful, enduring friendships?

Optional reflection:

- How do the relationships of **David & Jonathan** or **Jesus and the three disciples** reflect these truths?

4. The Foundation: Being Loved First

Read *Philippians 2:1* (NIV).

- What experiences does Paul list as the foundation for Christian relationships?
- Pastor Drew said that fully embracing God's love is the **first step** toward healthy Phileo relationships. Why do you think that is?
- The teaching stated: "*There is healing in our relationship with Jesus that changes our relationship capacity.*"
What does that statement mean to you personally?

5. Becoming the Kind of Friend You're Praying For

Read *Philippians 2:1–4* (NIV).

- What attitudes and actions does Paul challenge us to adopt in our relationships?
- Which of these is most difficult for you: humility, valuing others above yourself, or looking out for others' interests?
- Pastor Drew said, "*Don't go looking for that person. You become that person.*"
What would that look like practically in your life right now?

6. The Trap That Holds Us Back

Pastor Drew talked about a common trap: “**I’m not worthy.**”

- Why do you think feelings of unworthiness keep people from pursuing deep relationships?
- How does the \$100 / \$20 bill analogy challenge the way we view our worth?
- How does understanding God’s unchanging love reshape the way you see yourself—and others?

CLOSING REFLECTION

Pastor Drew said each of us is likely in one of these three places. Which one best describes you right now?

- I need to **embrace God’s perfect love for me.**
- I’m **working on becoming** that kind of friend.
- I’m blessed with a Phileo relationship, and I need to **express gratitude** this week.

PRAYER

Close by thanking God for His unchanging love, asking Him to heal any places that limit your ability to love others deeply, and praying for the courage to both **give and receive** Phileo love.