

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.*)
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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?
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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?
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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?
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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?
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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.
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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.