

# The Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Study Program

## A Leader's Guide for Group Discussion

Love

Song: "In Love We Choose to Live"  
CD 2, Track 3

Insert N-1 through N-4

Composer: Jeanne Cotter  
Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Music CD

### Materials Needed

Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible and Music CD, CD player, Participant's Worksheet, Pad of Paper, Pen.

### Setting the Stage

Before this session, mail (or e-mail) any member of the group that may not have been present at the last session the Participant's Worksheet for this session. Also, send a reminder of the date and time of the session as well as directions to the meeting place (if different from the church). To enhance an atmosphere of **Love**, have the song "In Love We Choose to Live" from the Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Music CD playing in the background when the participants arrive.

### Warm Up - Optional (10 minutes)

Moving around the group, have the first person say out loud the name of a person, place or thing in (or a word) associated with the Bible. The next person then must choose a new name of a person, place or thing or a word associated with the Bible **that begins with the last letter of the word the person before her said**. If a participant cannot think an answer, she must pass and is out of the game. The last person to answer is the winner. (Example: 1<sup>st</sup> person "God" 2<sup>nd</sup> person "Daniel" 3<sup>rd</sup> person "Levite" etc.)

### Opening Discussion (10 minutes)

Have each participant share her answers to the following questions: Do you think love is a noun or a verb? Explain. Do you think of love as a feeling or as an action? Explain. Read 1 John 4:8 "*Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.*" What does this verse mean to you?

### Plan and Purpose (10 minutes)

Read together the **Plan and Purpose** article on insert page N-1. Then have each participant write down five actions in her life that she would consider "love in action." Have each participant share and explain her list with the group. Discuss how love for others manifests itself in many ways.

### Spiritual Awakening - Opening Prayer

Pray together the **Opening Prayer** at the top of insert page N-2.

## **Spiritual Awakening - Recognizing (10 minutes)**

Ask for volunteers to read aloud each of the Scripture passages in the **Recognizing** section of **Spiritual Awakening** on insert page N-2. Remind the participants that each reader will pause for a few seconds of silence after each passage to allow anyone to offer any spontaneous thought, prayer, praise or thanksgiving that this Scripture might inspire. After the final Scripture is read, ask the group, "What else do these Scriptures teach us about **Love?**" Share and discuss any responses.

## **Spiritual Awakening – Recognizing (10 minutes)**

**Leader:** Matthew 5:44 challenges us to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us. What are the implications of this command in Scripture for: our homes, our communities, our country and our world? Is it really possible to "love your enemies?" Discuss as a group. To conclude, ask each participant to share who they think is living this commandment. This can be someone famous or someone they know or have known.

## **Spiritual Awakening - Reflecting (10 minutes)**

Mother Teresa once said, "It is not how much we do, but how much love we put into doing. It is not how much we give, but the love we put in the giving." Ask the participants to share with the group how giving sometimes can be done "not in a spirit of love?" Respond as a group to this question: What is your secret to performing your daily responsibilities (i.e. putting in a full day at work, preparing meals at home, shopping, cleaning the house, doing the laundry) in the spirit of love?

## **Group Prayer (5 minutes)**

**Leader:** Dearest Jesus, in Your passion, crucifixion and death, You revealed to us the ultimate meaning of love. Inspire us to imitate You in sacrifices of love for those close to us. We present our praises, prayers and petitions today in recognition of Your profound love for us: **enter aloud all individual intentions.** We pray that, out of Your infinite mercy and love for us, You will hear and answer our prayers. Amen.

## **Closing Prayer (10 minutes)**

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (Page 1244) slowly, pausing after each line to say, "**Holy Spirit, help us love as the Father has loved us.**"

## **Fellowship (15 minutes)**

After the session is completed and while refreshments are served, play softly in the background: "In Love We Choose to Live" from the Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Music CD.

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