



## WEEK THREE: LEARNING TOGETHER

**By Carey Madding and Susie Phillips**

It seems to be a rule of nature: When left alone, things tend toward chaos and disorder. Cheese begins to mold and your new car eventually turns to rust. Even stars burn out and turn dark. Many of us are the same way. When we take a “just let it go,” lackadaisical approach, things in our lives can drift. Even those of us who are driven and “type A” can find that things we don’t pay attention to can crumble and weaken.

I was challenged this week that “unstructured” might also mean “intentionally unaccountable,” especially in our spiritual lives. As believers, our full capacity for growing, learning, and improving should be trained like a laser beam on becoming more like Jesus Christ.

The community called The Cove Church is committed to “*learning to follow Him*” in both our mission statement and our very DNA. Our Life Groups, serving teams, and even the weekend services, are opportunities to help us apply the Bible knowledge that we soak up in our quiet times and small groups and hear in the messages. It’s time to ask yourself: Am I committed on a personal level to becoming a fully devoted and developed follower of Jesus Christ? Am I placing myself on an intentional path to growth, accountability and discipleship?

1. The 11<sup>th</sup> Commandment: “As I have loved you, love one another.” Share a one-word description of how Jesus loves you. How are you doing in applying this word to the way you love others, both inside and outside your spiritual family?
2. Read Romans 12:10. Discuss the words *devoted*, *brotherly love* and *honor*. Mike reminded us that it takes time to develop relationships like that. Who is to be the recipient of these emotions or actions? Share a time when you were shown that kind of loyalty. Or possibly a time when you should have been there for someone, but missed an opportunity.



3. Have you ever considered “harmony” a sign of spiritual maturity? Why would this “mind meld” be a huge value for God’s household? What steps do you take to promote harmony and peace—and defuse conflict? What Biblical principles and verses guide you in this?
4. Read Colossians 3:16. Is there any area in your life where you feel qualified to teach? How about in spiritual matters? Discuss with your Life Group what you feel you are missing or still need in order to share with others about Jesus, the Good News, and God’s Word.
5. Have you ever needed to admonish a friend? Was it difficult, painful, or successful? Or were you the one “taken to the woodshed” and given the opportunity to realize you needed to improve or change? Read Proverbs 27:6 and Ephesians 4:15. Discuss how these verses give practical encouragement in loving each other well.
6. In John Chapter 13, Jesus showed “the full extent of His love” when He humbled Himself to wash the disciples’ feet. What attitudes and fears must be conquered before we serve? What part, good or bad, does motivation play in our service?
7. Discuss with your Life Group: Are we “talking/learning” or “learning/applying”? As Mike said, “God will put you where you need to be. You just have to start.” So where are you going to start?