



# Love Does

## Part 4 – Love Believes the Best

### Discussion Guide

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In today's world, we are constantly suspicious, paranoid, and negative. However, true love calls us to believe the best in others. Love requires us to see the good in people and hope for the best, without reservation or fear. We are to prioritize encouraging them, without listing (even mentally) their previous failures. Easy to say, but almost impossible to live out.

#### **Jump Start**

*Leader: This section is designed to get discussions started, examine God's truth and apply it to our week.*

1. Share a time when you put your foot in your mouth. Did you say, joke, or text something that didn't accurately reflect what you meant?
2. **Read [1 Corinthians 13:5-7](#) and [Matthew 5:23-24](#)**. Why does Jesus teach that we must leave our offering and *first* go resolve a relationship issue? Does this mean we are to put an earthly relationship ahead of our relationship with God? Why or why not? How has anger or a broken relationship hindered your relationship with God?
3. **Read [John 8:4-11](#)**. What gives Jesus the right and authority to condemn this woman? Why doesn't He condemn her?
4. When have you judged someone or evaluated someone based on their sins or shortcomings? Do you tend to vocalize more positive or negative observations at home? In the work place? With your spouse? With your kids? Why do we focus on the negative?
5. **Read [1 Corinthians 13:7-8](#)**. What does it mean for love to be hopeful? How is being optimistic a loving attitude? What opportunities do you have to be hopeful in love?
6. Final Thought: **Read [Proverbs 17:17](#)**. As a culture, we are obsessed with the idea of purpose. According to this verse, what may be your purpose? Do you live as if your purpose is rooted in who you influence or in what you do?

### **Deeper**

*Leader: This section is designed for further use in your Life Group or for personal study. These can also be used as discussion points and ways to stay connected with your group throughout the week.*

Long before David was king, he had a best friend named Jonathan. Jonathan was also King Saul's son. Though Saul later became afraid of David and began pursuing him, Jonathan stuck by David. Their bond is probably the greatest example of a loving friendship we find in the Bible. Although we know a lot about David's life, we know very little about Jonathan's. This week, we take a deeper look at Jonathan's life and dive into their legacy of love.

7. Before Jonathan ever met David, he was a warrior and a leader in his father's army. **Read [1 Samuel 14:1, 6-15, 27-30, and 38-45](#)**. What are some of the characteristics we see in Jonathan? Why is he not better known for many of his individual successes and daring feats? What were the differences between Jonathan and his Dad (Saul)?
  
8. After 1 Samuel 14, we know much that happens in the life of David. He is anointed by the prophet Samuel to be the next king (chapter 16). He defeats Goliath, who was one of Saul's greatest enemies and a champion in the Philistine army (chapter 17). He is brought before Saul and we read of David and Jonathan's first encounter. **Read [1 Samuel 18:1-4](#)**. What does Jonathan do to show he is not threatened by David? Why isn't he jealous of David's presence? What does this reveal about Jonathan's character?
  
9. Jonathan's love for David is quickly put to the test. **Read [1 Samuel 19:1-10 and 1 Samuel 20:1-17](#)**. What action displays Jonathan's love for David? Why is this remembered more than his great war victories? How have you put elevating others in front of your own "kingdom"?

The rest of the book of 1 Samuel primarily focuses on David and Saul's "relationship." Saul can never get over the love people (including his own son) have for David. He becomes jealous and hunts David for the remainder of his life. In the end, this rage and hate causes him to become mentally unstable, paranoid and suspicious. He makes bad decisions and the Lord allows Israel to be defeated by the Philistines. Jonathan's fate seems insignificant and almost like an afterthought!

10. Read **[1 Samuel 31:1-4](#)**. Was Jonathan's life significant? What is his legacy in your mind? What will be your legacy? Who are you elevating even above yourself out of love? To see how David viewed Jonathan's legacy, check out **[2 Samuel 9:1-7](#)**.