



WEEK TWO: WE LOVE PEOPLE UNCONDITIONALLY – Study Guide

**By Dan Roseman
February 2, 2013**

Loving people with the same interests, goals, and dreams is easy—as long as they don't get in our way. But those aren't the only ones we're called to love. It doesn't take a lot of in-depth Bible study to find out that we're called to love everyone. But how do you do it?

Where Am I Today?

- 1) What kind of people do you find the most difficult to love? But, don't name names, especially if they are in your Life Group.

Into the Bible

- 2) When Jesus answered that the greatest commandment was to love God, he quickly followed it up with the second greatest. Read **Matthew 22:39-40** for the rest of his response. According to Jesus, why is it important to love your neighbor as yourself? How is this possible?

HOW TO CLIMB A MOUNTAIN

WEEK TWO: WE LOVE PEOPLE UNCONDITIONALLY – STUDY GUIDE

- 3) John shows us a hint of how we're able to love people unconditionally. Read **1 John 1:6-7** to see what's necessary to be able to do it. What has to be done first?

- 4) According to John, it's completely hypocritical to say that you love God but hate His people (who are His bride). Read **1 John 2:9-11** to see his bold admonition for us to make sure we love both God and His people. If you say you love God but hate others, especially other Jesus followers, what's the reality of your life?

- 5) While it's not a popular concept, there is an order to how we are called to love people unconditionally. Jesus' followers are clearly called to love everyone, but not everyone equally. This is especially true when we think of love as an action. Read **Galatians 6:9-10** to see the order in which we are to love people. Why does scripture give this order?

How Does This Apply?

- 6) At The Cove Church, our second Core Value is "We love people unconditionally." How can you love people unconditionally? How can we do that together as a Life Group, and church-wide?

HOW TO CLIMB A MOUNTAIN

WEEK TWO: WE LOVE PEOPLE UNCONDITIONALLY – STUDY GUIDE

Current Prayer Focus

What we're praying for together as a church:

- Neighborhood Campuses
- Building for the Statesville Campus
- 100 New Leaders at The Cove

Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own

- 7) The Bible clearly calls for us to love everyone. The parable of the Good Samaritan (**Luke 10:25-37**) is the clearest example of that. In that parable, Jesus taught us to love even our enemies. However, we still have greater responsibilities to other Jesus followers than we do to others.

There are ways to tell whether the Bible is describing our responsibility to another Jesus follower or a nonbeliever. One of the simplest is to look at where the Bible refers to our "neighbor" and to our "brother." Jesus said the Samaritan was being a neighbor, so a neighbor can be anyone. However, when scripture refers to other Jesus' followers, it frequently calls them "brother." They're family. John is a prime example of a biblical author who uses that nomenclature. Why is there a difference? How are we called to love and care for those outside of the "family?"