

WEEK 6

LOVE THAT REPAIRS

Reading: Chapters 10-11 - The Reset: Restoring Relational Alignment + What Love Really Looks Like

WEEKLY FOCUS

Some relationships are not gone. They are **out of alignment**. Repair requires truth, responsibility, forgiveness, patience, wise boundaries, and sometimes time for trust to grow again. Underneath all of that work is biblical love. This week asks us not only whether we are finding people who love us well, but whether we are **becoming people who know how to love well**.

THE AIM

Week 5 challenged the group to stay present under pressure. Week 6 asks what happens next. Staying in the room is not the same as healing. The aim is to help participants recognize relational misalignment, understand their own responsibility in repair, and move love from something admired into something practiced.

BEFORE YOU GATHER

- **Read Chapters 10-11.**
- Complete the personal Reflection questions at the end of both chapters.
- Review the Chapter 10 and Chapter 11 Discussion Guide sections in the back of the book.
- Come prepared to ask: **What is my responsibility in bringing relationships into healthy alignment, and what would love require of me?**

LEADER PREPARATION

These chapters may surface unresolved hurt. Keep the conversation focused on each person's responsibility rather than diagnosing absent people. The book distinguishes forgiveness, reconciliation, and trust. Do not collapse them into the same thing.

LEADER NOTE

Forgiveness, reconciliation, and trust are connected, but they are not identical.

A person can choose forgiveness without being able to create reconciliation alone. Reconciliation requires participation from more than one person. Trust determines how much weight a relationship can safely carry and may need to rebuild over time. Healthy boundaries can protect healing rather than prevent it.

CONNECT | 10 MINUTES

Begin with the opening question from Chapter 10's Discussion Guide:

START HERE

When you think about reconciliation, what makes repairing a relationship difficult?

Let the group name the real obstacles: hurt, pride, fear, mistrust, shame, disappointment, the risk of another rejection, or uncertainty about what repair should look like.

LOOK BACK | 10 MINUTES

Ask: **What stayed with you from Chapters 10 and 11?**

Listen for the book's picture of relational dislocation and for the ways 1 Corinthians 13 challenged people's understanding of love.

DISCUSS + GO DEEPER | 30-35 MINUTES

Use the existing Discussion Guide questions for Chapters 10 and 11 as the backbone. Chapter 10 explores relationships that remain connected but out of alignment, the difference between forgiveness, reconciliation, and trust, and the role of boundaries in protecting healing. Chapter 11 moves into the daily practices of biblical love.

Do not rush to solve a specific relationship for someone. Help participants identify the healthy next step that belongs to them.

GO DEEPER - LEADER PROMPTS

Have you mistaken the passing of time for actual healing?

What is yours to own in this relationship?

Are you asking for forgiveness, reconciliation, or restored trust? How are those different?

Could a boundary be protecting healing rather than punishing someone?

Where is love costing you something right now?

Which expression of love is God asking you to practice, not merely agree with?

READ TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE - ROMANS 12:18

Read the verse with special attention to the phrase **"do all that you can."**

Ask: What does this teach us about our responsibility in reconciliation? What does it teach us about the limits of our responsibility? How can we pursue peace without trying to control another person's response?

SCRIPTURE - 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7

Read this passage as a description of how a community of believers should treat one another, not only as words heard at a wedding.

Ask simply: **What challenges you?**

LEADER EMPHASIS

One conversation may reset something, but one conversation does not always rebuild everything. Consistency gives trust somewhere to grow.

Chapter 11 pushes the group further: biblical love becomes visible when it becomes action. Patience, kindness, truth, forgiveness, protecting vulnerability, celebrating others, and giving people room to grow are not abstract ideas. They are practices that make Jesus visible in our relationships.

LIVE IT TOGETHER | 10 MINUTES

THIS WEEK'S PRACTICE - ONE STEP TOWARD ALIGNMENT + ONE ACT OF LOVE

First, identify one relationship that may need attention.

Ask God to show you your responsibility, not only what the other person needs to do. Do you need to apologize, forgive, initiate a conversation, establish or respect a healthy boundary, or simply remain consistent while trust rebuilds?

Then choose one characteristic from 1 Corinthians 13 and practice it intentionally.

Make it specific. Who needs your patience? Encouragement? Forgiveness? Who needs you to believe the best instead of assuming the worst? Who simply needs you to show up?

PRAY TOGETHER | 10 MINUTES

Invite the group to pray less about changing other people and more about becoming faithful with the part God has entrusted to them.

- Pray for courage to address what has moved out of alignment.
- Pray for humility to own our part without defensiveness.
- Pray for grace to forgive and wisdom about reconciliation and trust.
- Pray for patience where healing and trust require time.
- Pray that the love described in 1 Corinthians 13 becomes visible in the group's ordinary relationships.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Remind everyone: you cannot control whether another person chooses reconciliation, but you can be faithful with your part. And love is not merely something we feel or say. Love becomes visible when it becomes action.

NEXT WEEK

Read Chapters 12-13: A Reconciled Body + Unity Creates Capacity.

Next week shifts the lens outward. The group will explore what happens when Jesus brings different people into **one body** and how unity creates capacity for things none of us were designed to carry alone.

YOU WERE NEVER MEANT TO DO THIS ALONE.