



## **WEEK 3: WE ARE THE BELOVED**

### **DISCOVER (PRE-WORK)**

Before and while you read these passages ask the Spirit of God to illuminate your heart and mind and bring conviction and clarity of his truth for your life. Take some time during your own personal study to read through these four key questions:

1. Who is God (what does this passage tell me about God's character)?
2. What Has God Done (how do I see God's character in action here)?
3. Who Am I (how does God's character and action shape how I see myself)?
4. What Do I Do (if I believe 1-3 how would I respond and relate to others)?

**Scripture: 1 John 4:7-21**

**(Additional suggestions: Romans 5:5-8 John 1:9-13; 3:16-18; 15:4-5)**

*QUESTION: What did you DISCOVER during your study?*

### **NURTURE**

Confess out loud to one another areas of personal struggle or unbelief that the Spirit revealed during your personal study.

In light of God the Father demonstrating his love for us through Jesus, pouring that love into our hearts through the Spirit and calling us His beloved consider these questions together:

1. How have you come to know the love of God the Father personally?
2. Where do you struggle to know and believe you are truly loved by God?
3. Where do you tend to go to get your love "container" filled up?
4. How have you wrongly tried to be for someone else the source of love that only God can be for them?

5. What good news (gospel) do you need to hear or believe about God the Father's love expressed for you in Jesus today?

During this time, let each person share how or where they need to repent and believe the truth of God revealed to them in Jesus. You may need to guide each other to what is true of God and ourselves in light of what Jesus has done. For instance, someone may be experiencing a great deal of dryness or emptiness in their relationship with God. They may need to be reminded that God wants to satisfy the deep thirst of their soul with the living water that Jesus has to offer. The call to repent may look like turning away (repent) from empty sources or corrupt sources that they have been depending up and turning to Jesus (believe) to be the unending supply of soul water. Use this time for confessing out loud the wrong sources and calling out in prayer for God the Father to pour His love into their hearts through his Spirit as they turn to Jesus for help.

*QUESTION: How will you REPENT and BELIEVE the gospel?*

## **ACT**

In light of your time together, what steps will you take to act on your new discoveries and affirmed beliefs?

Consider these questions:

1. What sources do you need to stop looking to instead of looking to God who is love for you?
2. Where do you need to be freed from trying to be the love of God for someone else?
3. How might your relationships change as a result?
4. What actions do you want to take?

*QUESTION: What will you DO and who will you TELL about what God has done?*