



# HOMIES

## *The Power of Love*

#nphomies

Week 2  
2 of 6  
April 30, 2017

**Bottom Line:** Love is a decision that is backed up by my committed actions.

**Icebreaker:** What was the first pet you ever loved and cared for?

**Key Verse:** *"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."* 1 John 4:10

Nothing shapes our thoughts more easily than music. The songs we have heard, the words we sing about love give us concepts, thoughts that are often faulty. For instance, B.J. Thomas hooked an entire generation on the thought that love was being "hooked on a feeling, high on believing . . ." However, even a quick look at the source of truth will tell us that love is far more than a feeling. It is a decision, backed up by committed actions.

As we look at the power of love to change our family and make it new, the place to start is the example of how Christ loves us. God didn't love us because we were worthy, successful, or even because we had potential. He loved us because He decided too. When we make an unalterable decision to love our families, not dependent on how we feel at the moment but always dependent on our prior choice, we start loving in a transformative way.

The problem for many of us is that we have not been loved that way in our growing-up years. Trying to love that way when we never have experienced it is so exhausting that we try for awhile and then give up in hopelessness. The only way to break the old patterns of life is to look at the pattern of Jesus for direction and hope. How does HE love me when I am difficult? When I am not responding well? I can follow His example, not the flawed one given to me by my upbringing. When I really *get* His love for me, the pressure is off my family to meet all my needs.

The strategy of Jesus in His love was to be an example of all that He wanted His followers to be. That works for us as well. When our purpose is to love Jesus so cleanly and clearly that our families can see how to live and love by experiencing us, we will discover the power available to us for the family we never dreamed was possible.

### THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on the message, what impacted you most?

What is the best example from your growing up that you can remember? What did your family get right?

Is there anything you wish your family would have done better in the love department?

"The highest purpose in family is not to have a good family, fun family, loving family—the highest purpose is beyond that—to show who God is and who we belong to by the way we love each other." Why do you think it is so easy to focus on the other goals/purposes?

Getting the highest purpose right doesn't necessarily mean we don't need to work on other elements. How are you making sure your love for each other includes fun?

### LOOK IT OVER <<<

What are the characteristics and goals you would have for your children? Your spouse? Your siblings? How are you doing at modeling those characteristics? Where do you need the most work?

It is easy to feel like this: "Do what I say, not what I do," especially with our children. What is generally the result when that is the approach?

What are some practical ways to serve your family? What are some ways you can serve with your family?

Being authentic and real is vital. How can you model character and integrity when you are struggling and discouraged?

## NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Share a summer goal for serving with your family.
- 2) Identify a family member who does not know the Lord and pray together for them.

## EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** Love is a decision that is backed up by my committed actions.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Day 1: John 13:34-35  
Day 2: Zephaniah 3:17  
Day 3: Romans 8:39  
Day 4: Genesis 50:20  
Day 5: Psalm 103:17

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***  
*(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)*