

**LOVE**

*love*

**BUILD**

*build*

**SERVE**

*serve*



# LOVE BUILD SERVE

## **VISION:**

To build an authentic church that leads ALL people to Jesus

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We believe that the Local Church is the hope of the world and we are building according to God's original blueprint, 'Family'.

With Jesus as our foundation we are being built into God's home brick by brick day by day. Transformation takes place as we choose to be found in community.

We are not under the illusion that building family is easy. It will be through our weakness and humility that God will work His

best. We are uncompromising when it comes to the authority of the word of God.

It is through the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to pursue an authentic relationship with God and each other.

Like a lighthouse we will stand as a beacon of hope in our homes, workplaces and communities echoing the unchanging, unfailing love of God.

Through these 21 days of prayer and fasting, we pray that you take this journey in community. Perhaps you can pray with someone from your connect group, your family, your spouse or a friend!

There is also so much space for personal reflection and prayer with God. May you take a moment to stop and meditate on scripture and to hear God's voice. May you create more space than you normally do to spend time with God.

We would love to encourage you through the 21 days of prayer and fasting to engage in prayer walking.

You can do this with a friend or on your own.

This is an opportunity to pray over our community, our neighbourhood and our city. It is a powerful way to engage our faith and pray His Kingdom come!

This season of prayer and fasting feels particularly significant. Where there is unity God commands a blessing.

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<sup>6</sup> **WEEK 1 - LOVE**  
LOVE GOD LOVE PEOPLE

# 01

And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

**Ephesians 3:18-19**

- 8 This week, dig a little bit deeper! Pray the dangerous prayer of asking God to reveal to you more of His love! This above scripture is an invitation into the depths of His love.

Pray for God to soften your heart so that you are able to receive more of His love.





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## 02

**LOVE:** **Loving One Another**

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. God **II** showed how much He loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

**1 John 4 (NLT)**

**IS**

Sit with this thought today: What does that mean to you?

**GOD**

So often we focus on the truth that God loves us and we love God. However, there is a transforming truth in knowing **GOD IS LOVE!** Be still & sit with this thought.

# 03

“One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap Him with this question: “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

**Matthew 22:35-40 (NLT)**

**Focus Prayer:** write down the names of people you would like to make special attention to pray for in these 21 days.  
**Prayer:** Jesus, show me your heart for people. Help me love them from the heart you gave me. Show me your heart for them.

Write out a prayer of blessing and love over the people you feel led to pray for.

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14

Love is large and incredibly patient. Love is gentle and consistently kind to all. It refuses to be jealous when blessing comes to someone else. Love does not brag about one's achievements nor inflate its own importance. Love does not traffic in shame and disrespect, nor selfishly seek its own honor. Love is not easily irritated or quick to take offense. Love joyfully celebrates honesty and finds no delight in what is wrong. Love is a safe place of shelter, for it never stops believing the best for others. Love never takes failure as defeat, for it never gives up.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (TPT)**

## 04

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (TPT) gives us a “road map for love.” But this road map is often reserved for weddings. However, the scope for this love is much bigger! It is with this love we are to build our lives and our church.

**Meditate on the above scripture. You may want to look it up in different translations. What part of this scripture is speaking to you personally today?**

There is as much freedom to be found in the truth of what love is *not* as there is from the extensive list of what love is.

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## 05

### Teaching about Love for Enemies

“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For He gives His sunlight to both the evil and the good, and He sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

Matthew 5:43-48 (NLT)

Loving our enemies is one of the wildest teachings of Jesus. I love how this verse describes this quality as one of the hallmarks of being a child of God.

Forgiveness is one thing, but loving feels like another jump altogether. Maybe you feel like you can forgive those who have hurt you, but to LOVE them is no small thing. We can not even approach this level of love on our own. We need the help of the Holy Spirit and the Love of God to transform our hearts.

Prayer is the beginning of this journey. Praying as we have earlier this week for the heart of Jesus for those we have perceived as our ‘enemies’.

The next step can be praying ‘blessing’ over the person you are holding unforgiveness towards.

This is a journey and not something that you pray once and have released.

What has helped me in the past is everytime I would think about something or someone who had hurt me I would pray blessing over that person.

It’s not small... It’s not simple... BUT it’s His Kingdom come!



## 06

Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and His love is brought to full expression in us. And God has given us His Spirit as proof that we live in Him and He in us. Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in His love.

**1 John 4:11- 16**

This is what drew me into Eastcoast Church as an 18 year old. I experienced the love of God through the community and the friendships that I witnessed and was invited into. Though I didn't fully perceive it at the time, this was the expression of the Love of God through them. We become a living testimony for the truth and evidence of Christ when we love each other.

Pray that we would be a community that puts their trust in the Love of God and stands as a testimony of the love of God through the way we love each other.

## 07

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Galatians 2:20 (NLT)**

Rick Warren says, 'to feel loved by God... is the starting point for every ministry, every revival, every renewal, every great awakening.'

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

**- 1 Corinthians 13**

1 Corinthians 13 gives the perspective and importance of Love. We can easily get caught up pursuing gifts and manifestations of the love of God; but without the foundation of Love these things are empty and not the way God intended them to be.

You have made it to the end of the first week of the fast! May you continue forward into the next two weeks from a foundation of love for God. May you continue to understand more and more, though we will never fully understand how wide, how high how deep His love for you is. (Ephesians 3:18-19)



## WEEK 2 - BUILD

BUILD THE AUTHENTIC FAMILY OF  
GOD WHERE PEOPLE FIND HOPE,  
HEALING, FREEDOM AND ARE  
TRANSFORMED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

This entire building is under construction and is continually growing under His supervision until it rises up completed as the holy temple of the Lord himself. This means that God is transforming each one of you into the Holy of Holies, His dwelling place, through the power of the Holy Spirit living in you!

**Ephesians 3:21-22(TPT)**

Under construction!

He is building His Church and as we are being built in, we are also being built up as the temple of the Holy Spirit.

It is a privilege and a powerful truth that we have the presence of God dwelling in us.

The same power that raised Christ from the dead lives in you!

Meditate on this truth today. We can't put the Spirit of God into a compartment in our lives; He is our life! In Him we move and have our being.

Pray for a deeper understanding of what it means for the Spirit of God to be dwelling in you at all times.

## 09

BUILDING TAKES TIME! In the natural we know that building anything that is to be structurally sound takes time and attention. When we rush a build and cut corners, the integrity of the building is compromised. It is interesting to see that we have so many scriptures that describe us and the Church as a building under construction; and we need to remember: BUILDING TAKES TIME!

26

Where are you at in your journey of being built up and into the House of God?

Read the adjacent scripture. Allow God to unfold deeper understanding when it comes to how you are being built up.

27

By wisdom a house is built,  
And by understanding it is established;  
And by knowledge the rooms are filled  
With all precious and pleasant riches.

**Proverbs 24:3-4**

The Bible tells us often to pray for wisdom and understanding. There is no escaping the need for wisdom in our Christian maturity. Praise God that by His word and spirit we can increase in wisdom.



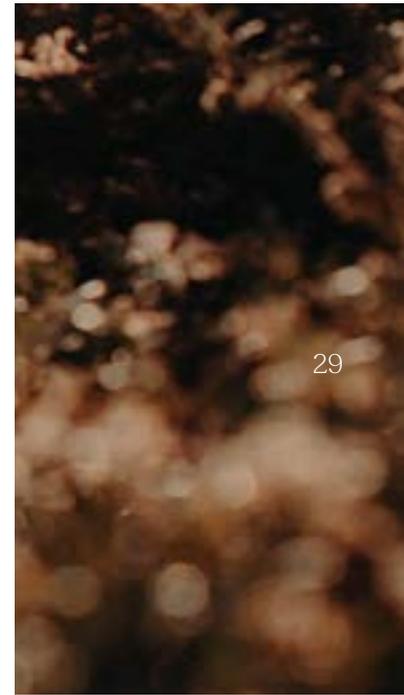
So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when He adopted you as His own children. Now we call Him, "Abba, Father." For His Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. And since we are His children, we are His heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share His suffering.

**Romans 8:15-17**

The Church is not a business, or an organisation; it is a family! At salvation we are adopted in & born again into God's family. We have God as our Father. We also inherit a family. We belong to each other. Our Christian journey was never meant to be done on our own. Jesus prayed we would be ONE as He is ONE with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Let God speak to you about His heart for His children. The function of a family is to grow people up in maturity. That is the role of a family of faith too.

Are there barriers or blockages in your heart that prevent you seeing and experiencing the Church as a family? Begin to talk to God about this.



# 11

A wise woman builds her home, but a foolish woman tears it down with her own hands.

**Proverbs 14: 1 (NLT)**

Every wise woman encourages and builds up her family, but a foolish woman over time will tear it down by her own actions.

**Proverbs 14 (TPT)**

30 Men and Women alike, it is our calling to build up not to tear down. Our words and actions have the ability to build up and to tear down. Wisdom builds, impulse and foolishness tears down. God wants to partner with us to build up our families and the family of God. The devil's intention is to steal kill and destroy (John 10:10). We want to partner with God through His Holy Spirit to be builders. You will have your own gifts that will build those around you. For some hospitality, for others encouragement, acts and service.

Focus on what your personal gifts are in building others up in and outside the community of faith.

# 12

## **Read Nehemiah 4**

Do they actually think they can make something of stones from a rubbish heap—and charred ones at that?

In the story of Nehemiah, they used the damaged and burnt bricks to rebuild the walls of the city. This is a beautiful picture of how God uses the very things that have been damaged in our lives, the hard things,

the things that felt useless to become the very things that He will use to restore us and others. God has a beautiful way of creating beauty from ashes.

When we place our whole lives on the Altar He can and will use all things for His Glory.

Look back and praise God for all He has already restored in your life.

31

**This is the Chapter for the next two days.**

Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ. I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready, for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world? When one of you says, "I am a follower of Paul," and another says, "I follow Apollos," aren't you acting just like people of the world?

After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God's servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building.

Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.

Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.

Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you? God will destroy anyone who destroys this temple. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Stop deceiving yourselves. If you think you are wise by this world's standards, you need to become a fool to be truly wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As the Scriptures say,

"He traps the wise  
in the snare of their own cleverness."

And again,

"The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise;  
He knows they are worthless."

So don't boast about following a particular human leader. For everything belongs to you—whether Paul or Apollos or Peter, or the world, or life and death, or the present and the future. Everything belongs to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

**1 Corinthians 3 (NLT)**



### Read 1 Corinthians 3

## 13

This is the chapter for the next two days.

34 There is no other foundation that can be laid other than that of Jesus Christ.

Sit with this thought. Meditate on this thought.

There is an old song 'On Christ the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand'.

Ask God to reveal to you any foundation you have been putting your trust in other than Jesus. Recommit your heart to Jesus and make Him the foundation of your life and the source of your hope and trust.

## 14

### Read 1 Corinthians 3

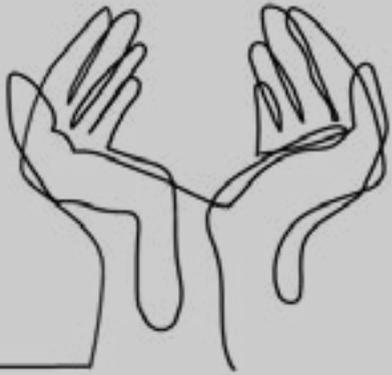
For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building.

We are being built up and we are building! Take another look at the focus on what we build with. In this chapter you will notice that how we build and what we build with matters. 35

In a western culture with a myriad of distractions, it is so tempting to build for ourselves and build from an earthly perspective. There are times when the Holy Spirit will reveal to us by scripture that there are structures that need to come down and weeds that need to be unearthed to make space for the things God wants to grow and build.

Take a moment today to talk to God about how you are building and what materials you are building with.

**Write down some things you feel God is calling you to dismantle or to build up:**



36

## **WEEK 3 - SERVE**

SERVE GOD, SERVE EACH OTHER  
SERVE OUR COMMUNITY AND THE  
WORLD WITH THE LOVE OF GOD

37

# 15

But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles have absolute power and lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them [tyrannizing them]. It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your [willing and humble] slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many [paying the price to set them free from the penalty of sin].”

**Matthew 20:25-28 (AMP)**



Jesus made these statements in response to James' and John's mother asking for them to have special treatment in the Kingdom of heaven; the best seats in the house next to Jesus. Jesus then gathers them all together after the other 10 disciples got very annoyed that they had the hide to ask (probably because they all wanted that special treatment). Jesus then teaches them about an “upside down” Kingdom in which He is the King. The Jews were looking for a great King to come and save them. They did not have eyes to see the Shepherd, Servant King that God has sent them.

**Take a moment to reflect on your own heart. Take another look at Jesus as we journey towards the cross at the end of this week. We are going to focus on Jesus' example of how to serve. How He lived this message with His life as an example for us to follow.**

## 16

After washing their feet, He put on His robe again and sat down and asked, “Do you understand what I was doing? You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are right, because that’s what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

**John 13:12**

40

In the lead up to His death, everything Jesus said and did held great significance. Jesus says He only said what the Father wants Him to say. He is the reflection of God. This is mind boggling when we think about the fact that Jesus chose to wash His disciples dusty, dirty feet. He was setting an example of serving one another in humility. This is birthed out of God’s deep love for humanity.

Jesus not only talked about it; He lived it.

**Who are you called to serve? What does serving look like in your day to day context. How do we serve the ones we love?**

## 17

The Hebrew word Avodah (root word Avad) in the English version of scripture, has been roughly translated into three different words: “Work,” “Worship,” and “Service.”

Rather than sparking confusion, this actually brings a beautiful clarity around such scriptures as Romans 12 which calls us to bring our whole lives as a living sacrifice before God.

Our Work, Our Worship, Our Service before God is interchangeable. This brings a deeper thought to our acts of service for others when we think of it as an act of worship before God. When I take my work, I place it before God as an act of worship.

41

So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what He wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

**Romans 12:1-2 MSG**



## 18

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

**Matthew 5:14**

We have been called to serve the world as a lighthouse of the Love of Jesus. Take some time to “prayer walk” the streets. Pray and prophesy the light and love of Jesus over the streets of our suburbs.

Meditate on the fact that not only is Jesus calling Himself the light of the world, but He has called us to be that light to serve our Community by shining His light in the darkness.

## 19

Remember Love is the foundation of everything. We started this devotion with a deep focus on not only the Love of God, but the fact that God is Love. As we approach Easter and the end of the fast, let's look at the foundation of all that we celebrate and remember is Love. Don't become complacent with His love. Meditate on the verse below. May you have a deeper revelation of His Love for you.

For God so [greatly] loved and dearly prized the world, that He [even] gave His [One and] only begotten Son, so that whoever believes and trusts in Him [as Savior] shall not perish, but have eternal life.

**John 3:16 (AMP)**

44



## 20

For I received from the Lord Himself that [instruction] which I passed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is (represents) My body, which is [offered as a sacrifice] for you. Do this in [affectionate] remembrance of Me." In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant [ratified and established] in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in [affectionate] remembrance of Me." For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are [symbolically] proclaiming [the fact of] the Lord's death until He comes [again].

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26 AMP**

There is great power in communion. It is an act of not only remembering and reflecting, it is a victorious proclamation that Jesus conquered death and we have been saved by His blood! May you stand in victory this Easter! Not in your own strength but in the truth that Jesus died and He rose again so that you might live! Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

**Take time to pray and intercede for those you are believing to come to know Jesus.**

45

# 21

Could it be any clearer? Our old way of life was nailed to the cross with Christ, a decisive end to that sin-miserable life—no longer captive to sin’s demands! What we believe is this: If we get included in Christ’s sin-conquering death, we also get included in his life-saving resurrection. We know that when Jesus was raised from the dead it was a signal of the end of death-as-the-end. Never again will death have the last word. When Jesus died, He took sin down with Him, but alive he brings God down to us. From now on, think of it this way: Sin speaks a dead language that means nothing to you; God speaks your mother tongue, and you hang on every word. You are dead to sin and alive to God. That’s what Jesus did.

**Romans 6:6-11 (MSG)**

Jesus has the final word!

46

What has God been speaking to you about over the past 21 days of prayer and fasting? Write it out and share it with someone.  
Pray together over all God has been saying.

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eastcoast  
church