

# BUILT TO LAST

**RADIANT CHURCH**





# INTRODUCTION

## PASTORS GREG & CONNIE

Our hearts are full seeing you live in biblical community. God has created us to live in relationship with Him and His people. We are never supposed to live life alone.

We are excited about this new series called “Built to Last”; a series about relationships. Whether you are married or single, God’s word will strengthen and enrich every relationship you have when we put His word into action within our lives.

We challenge you during the next 5 weeks and after, to drink deeply from God’s word, to encourage each other and to never give up but instead, fight the fight, finish the course and keep the faith until the day of our Lord returns for each of us.

Please let us know how to serve you and your families best as we all own our faith in a life changing way!

Much Love,

*Greg & Connie*

Pastors Greg & Connie

# USING THIS WORKBOOK

TOOLS TO HELP YOU HAVE A GREAT LIFE GROUP EXPERIENCE!

1. Notice in the Table of Contents there are three sections: (1) Sessions; (2) Appendices; and (3) Life Group Leaders. Familiarize yourself with the Appendices. Some of them will be used in the sessions themselves.
2. If you are leading or co-leading a Life Group, the section Life Group Leaders will give you tips for effective leadership, encourage you, and help you avoid a few common obstacles.
3. Use this workbook as a guide, not a straitjacket. If the group responds to the lesson in an unexpected but honest way, go with that. If you think of a better question than the next one in the lesson, ask it. Take to heart the insights included in the Frequently Asked Questions pages and the Life Group Leaders section.
4. Enjoy your Life Group experience.
5. Pray before each session—for your group members, for your time together, for wisdom and insights.
6. Read the Outline for Each Session on the next pages so you understand how the sessions will flow.

# OUTLINE OF EACH SESSION

A TYPICAL GROUP SESSION FOR THE BUILT TO LAST STUDY WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS. READ THROUGH THIS TO GET A CLEAR IDEA OF HOW EACH GROUP MEETING WILL BE STRUCTURED:

## WEEKLY MEMORY VERSES

Each session opens with a Memory Verse that emphasizes an important truth from the session. This is an optional exercise, but we believe memorizing scripture is a powerful way to grow spiritually. We encourage you to give this important habit a try. The verses for each session are also listed in the appendix.

## INTRODUCTION

Each lesson opens with a brief thought that will help you prepare for the session and get you thinking about that week's topic. Make it a practice to read these before the session. You may want to have the group read them aloud.

## SHARE YOUR STORY

The foundation for spiritual growth is an intimate connection with God and His family. You build that connection by sharing your story with a few people who really know you and who earn your trust. This section includes some simple questions to get you talking—letting you share as much or as little of your story as you choose.

## HEAR GOD'S STORY

In this section, you'll read the Bible and listen to teaching in order to hear God's story—and begin to see how His story aligns with yours. When the study directs you to, you'll watch a short teaching segment on video. You'll then have an opportunity to read a passage of scripture and discuss both the teaching and the text. The goal isn't to accumulate information, but to apply the insights from scripture to your daily life.



## CREATE A NEW STORY

In this section, you'll have an opportunity to go beyond Bible study to biblical living. This section will also have a question or two that will challenge you to live out your faith by serving others, sharing your faith, or worshiping God.

## FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

If you have time and want to dig deeper into more Bible passages about the topic, we've provided additional passages and questions. You can use them during the meeting or as homework. Your group may choose to read and prepare before each meeting in order to cover more biblical material. Or, group members can use the additional study section during the week after the meeting. If you prefer not to do study homework, this section will provide you with plenty to discuss within the group. These options allow individuals or the whole group to expand their study while still accommodating those who can't do homework or are new to your group.

## DAILY DEVOTIONS

Each week on the Daily Devotions pages, we provide scriptures to reflect on between sessions. This provides you with a chance to slow down, read just a small portion of scripture each day, and pray through it. You'll then have a chance to journal your response to what you've read. Use this section to seek God on your own throughout the week. This time at home should begin and end with prayer. Don't get in a hurry; take enough time to hear from God and talk to Him!





A couple is sitting on a pier or beach, looking out at the ocean during sunset. The woman is on the left, wearing a dark top and leggings, and the man is on the right, wearing a light blue shirt and glasses. They are both looking towards the horizon where the sun is setting, creating a warm, golden glow. The background is a vast expanse of water and sky.

# SESSION 5

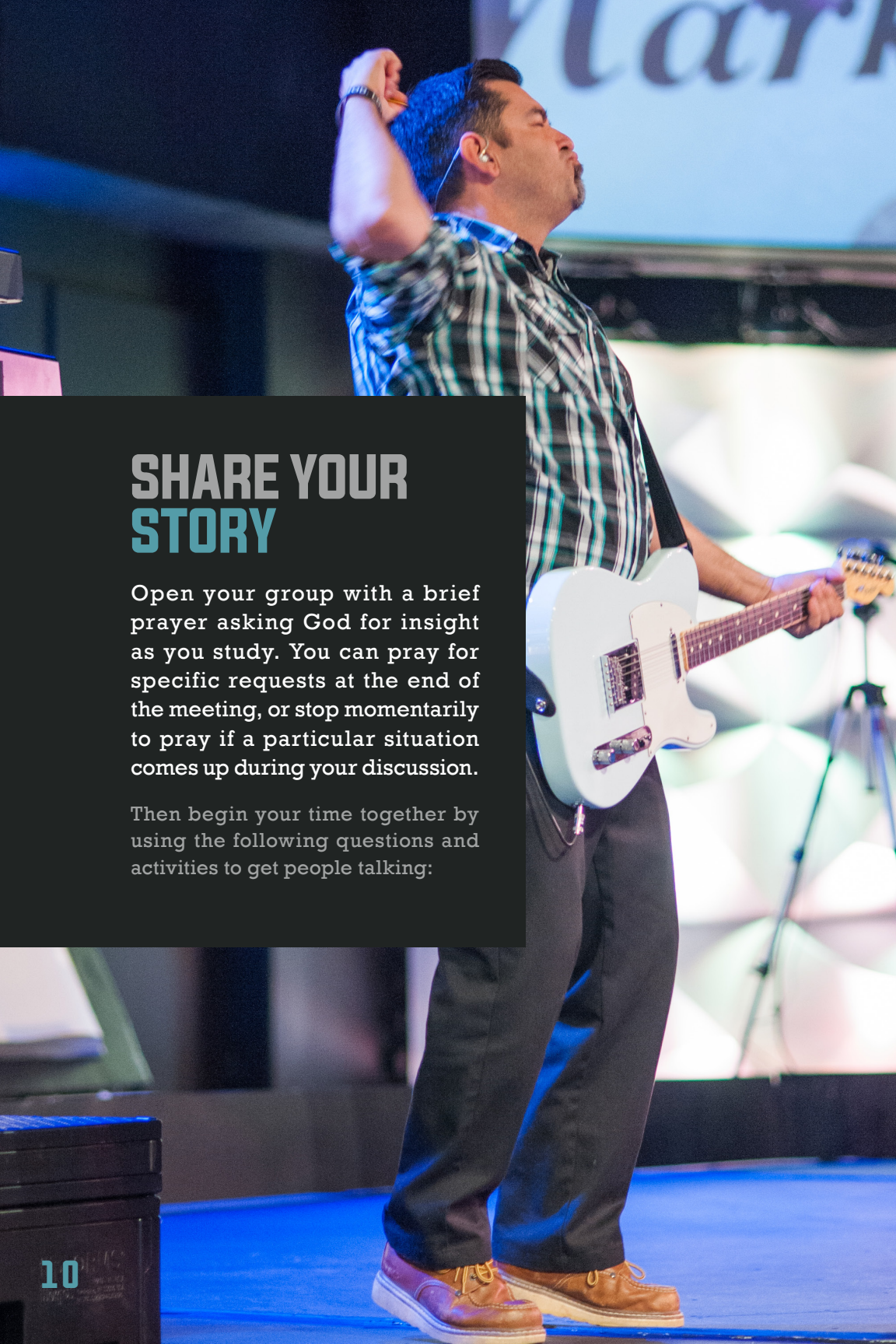
## MAINTENANCE

FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE, THEREFORE, AS DEARLY LOVED CHILDREN AND WALK IN THE WAY OF LOVE, JUST AS CHRIST LOVED US AND GAVE HIMSELF UP FOR US AS A FRAGRANT OFFERING AND SACRIFICE TO GOD.  
EPHESIANS 5:1

The Beatles famously sang, “All you need is love.” While that might strike us as a little simplistic, Jesus actually taught something similar—that all the rules of the law, all the commandments God gave to his people, and all the ways God calls us to follow him today would be fulfilled perfectly if we consistently acted out of love.

Of course, we're flawed human beings who don't always get this right. That's why we need Jesus—He's our model for how to love others and how to develop the healthy, lasting relationships we all long for. Turns out love really is all you need, if it's the patient, kind, hopeful, and unselfish love God calls us to. It's simple, but it's far from easy, so we'll finish our study by examining the principles of true love that improve every relationship.





## SHARE YOUR STORY

Open your group with a brief prayer asking God for insight as you study. You can pray for specific requests at the end of the meeting, or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

Then begin your time together by using the following questions and activities to get people talking:

1. What has surprised you most about this group? Where did God meet you over the last five weeks?

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2. Take some time for each person to share about how they've done with inviting the people on the Circles of Life to church or your Life Group. What specific conversations are you praying about for the weeks to come?

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# HEAR GOD'S STORY

## 1 CORINTHIANS 13

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup>It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>Love does not delight

in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1. The word used for love in this passage is “agape,” which means a self-sacrificing love like God has for us. Why would the apostle Paul have chosen this word when writing? Does it affect the meaning of these verses for you?

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2. What does it mean to delight in evil? Why is that contrasted with rejoicing with the truth?

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3. In verses 11 and 12, why does the focus shift from describing love to describing our understanding of it?

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4. How is love greater than faith and hope?

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## CREATE A NEW STORY

How has God changed your story during this study? What new things is He asking you to do? What truth has transformed your heart? Think about specific steps you want to take to apply what you've learned.

1. Which attribute of love in 1 Corinthians 13 is easiest for you? Which one is most difficult?

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2. How has God shown love to you? What are some ways you can follow His example and show love to others?

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3. What is one action step you want to take this week because of what you've learned today?

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4. If your group still needs to make decisions about continuing to meet after this session, have that discussion now. Talk about what you will study, who will lead, and when you will meet.

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5. Review your Life Group Agreement on page 108 and evaluate how well you met your goals. Discuss any changes you want to make as you move forward.

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**Close by praying for your prayer requests and take a couple of minutes to review the praises you have recorded over the past five weeks on the Prayer and Praise Report on page 113. Spend some time thanking God for all He's done in your group during this study.**



**CLOSE YOUR MEETING WITH PRAYER.**

Thank God for the people in your group. Pray for each person, that they would be open to Jesus in a new way through this study. Also, pray for new people you could invite to join your group next week.



## FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

Take some time between now and our next meeting to dig into God's Word. Explore the Bible passages related to this session's theme on your own. Jot down your reflections in a journal or in this study guide. You may even want to use a Bible website or app to look up commentary on these passages. If you like, share what you learn with the group the next time you meet.

### READ MATTHEW 22:34-40

1. Why is this considered the greatest commandment?

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2. What does it mean to love God with your mind? With your heart? With your soul?

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3. What does it mean that "all the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments"?

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**READ 1 JOHN 4:7-12**

4. God does not do loving things, God IS love. What does this mean? How does it help you understand these verses?

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5. What does it mean to live through the Son?

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6. How can our relationships with each other show God to other people?

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7. What does it mean for God's love to be made complete in us?

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# DAILY DEVOTIONALS

## DAY 1 • PROVERBS 3:3

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

Reflect: What is the significance of love and faithfulness being connected so strongly here? Can you have one without the other?

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## DAY 2 • COLOSSIANS 3:14

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Reflect: Every part of our walk with God begins and ends with love. How does maturing in love bring unity to the other ways we're growing?

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## DAY 3 • ROMANS 8:35, 37

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Reflect: This is the ultimate example of unconditional love—nothing can separate us from the love Jesus has for us! Take some time today to think about the situations in your life that are causing you fear or worry, and thank Him for being with you in the midst of these struggles.

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## DAY 4 • ROMANS 12:10

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Reflect: How would your relationships change if you lived out this verse? What are some practical ways you could do that this week?

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## DAY 5 • JOHN 13:34-35

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Reflect: We are called to love because we have the great privilege of showing Jesus' love to the world. Spend some time today considering how you can “be Jesus” to others.

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**DAY 6**

Use the following space to reflect on what you learned this week and what God is saying to you.

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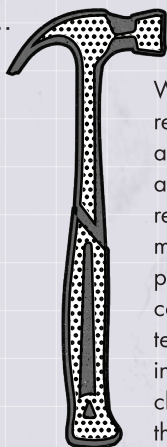
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*“Build friendships & marriages on the solid ground of His word.”*

# HOME sweet HOME



Whether we're single or married, young or old, we all have relationships that matter to us. In *Built to Last*, Pastor Greg and a team from Radiant Church share biblical teaching and practical insights that can help you develop healthy relationships with God and with others, build friendships and marriages on the solid ground of His word, manage conflict, pursue intimacy, and live with love. This five-week series combines video teaching from Pastor Greg, stories and testimonies from dozens of Radiant Church members, and an in-depth study guide to take your small group or Bible study class to the next level in growing and enjoying relationships that are built to last.

