



## PART 2: River of Love

### INTRODUCTION

Whether it's your house, your car, or even your body, things tend to deteriorate over time. No one wants to become a worse person over time. We all want to grow—to become better versions of ourselves. But how do we do that?

God's love is not contingent on your obedience. Your obedience is impossible without God's love.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time when you saw someone blame others for his or her inability to love. What impression did that leave on you?
2. Read John 15:12-13. What are some examples, small or large, of what it looks like to “lay down one's life for one's friends” in our modern context?
3. *“God's love is not contingent on your obedience. Your obedience is impossible without God's love.”* Do you tend to view God's love as conditional or unconditional? How does that influence your life and the choices you make?
4. Read John 15:9. What are some practical things you can do to try to remain in Jesus' love on a daily basis?
5. Who is one person in your life for whom you find it difficult to “lay down your life” by putting his or her needs ahead of yours? What obstacles stand in the way of you sacrificing on behalf of that person?
6. What is one way, large or small, that you can “lay down your life” for that person this week? What can this group do to support you?

### MOVING FORWARD

Abiding in Christ is the secret to continual growth and improvement over the course of your entire life. In him, you can produce fruit: love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Apart from him, you can do nothing.

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

*“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.”*

**John 15:12-13**