

# Week 1

## Commitment in



## Community

*Submit to One Another*

### **February 6**

*Scripture:* 1 Peter 5

*Contemplation:* What is the relationship between submission and humility?

*Prayer*

### **February 7**

*Scripture:* Ephesians 5

*Contemplation:* What is the relationship between submission and love?

*Prayer*

*Forbear One Another*

### **February 8**

*Scripture:* Ephesians 4

*Contemplation:* The Greek word for “forbearance” literally means “to put up with.” Practicing forbearance keeps us from becoming critical and spiritually arrogant. Why is bearing with one another so difficult to obey? What does it mean to “give people room” to be who they are?

*Prayer*

### **February 9**

*Scripture:* Colossians 3:13

*Contemplation:* Looking at verses 13-15, what is the relationship between forbearance and peace? Is it possible to be in close community with people while having only one of these and not the other?

*Prayer*

### **February 10**

*Scripture:* Romans 14; 15:1-2

*Contemplation:* What is Romans saying about how Christians should handle disagreement?

What, specifically, are we being warned against?

*Prayer*

### **February 11**

*Scripture:* 1 Corinthians 9

*Contemplation:* Looking at verses 19-23, what was Paul’s personal rule of conduct? His purpose? What is the difference between forbearance and politeness or tolerance? Why should forbearance be considered a foundational command for the church?

*Prayer*

## **Weekly Questions**

- In Ephesians 5:21-33 we read that Paul commands that wives should submit to their husbands and men must love their wives. Is the opposite true as well? Should wives love their husbands and should men submit to their wives? In a larger sense, scripture commands us all to love one another AND to submit to one another. If that is true then why does Paul here explicitly tell husbands to love their wives and women to submit to their husbands?
- Did you notice how many times the word “one” occurs in Ephesians 4:1-6? Why does Paul use this word over and over again? What does Paul’s repetition of this word have to do with forbearing with one another?
- In Romans 14:10-13 Paul commands us to not pass judgment on one another. Why does he command this? What is he saying about the thoughts and the mindset of a believer who judges his brother or sister? What is the particular fault (or faults) that Paul had in mind as he wrote these words?

## Week 2

## Commitment in



*Speak Truthfully to One Another*

### **February 13**

*Scripture:* Ephesians 4:15-16

*Contemplation:* How does speaking the truth in love to one another spur growth?

*Prayer*

### **February 14**

*Scripture:* Zechariah 8:16-17

*Contemplation:* Note: A city gate in biblical writings was known as the administrative and judicial center where legal matters were discussed and executed. Vs 17 reveals and sheds light on the opposite of what God desires in vs 16. Where does the scripture point to as the place where evil is devised? How can we better discern the root behind our own actions?

*Prayer*

### **February 15**

*Scripture:* Ephesians 4:22-32

*Contemplation:* See all the different ways Paul compares and contrasts the old and new self. Is it possible to speak truth to one another in the former way of life? How does that compare and contrast to how we are called to speak the truth in love in our new self?

*Prayer*

### **February 16**

*Scripture:* Colossians 3:9-14

*Contemplation:* Lying is associated with the old self and our former nature. When we deceive others we also deceive ourselves. How does practicing truth in our own lives promote unity and new creation in the body? *Prayer*

### **February 17**

*Scripture:* 1 John 1:6-7

*Contemplation:* Knowing the truth and practicing it in our lives takes faith and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Often we are unaware of our own blind spots because we can't see them. Pray today for God to help reveal to you a blind spot in your life where you need the Holy Spirit to move in your life this week.

*Prayer*

### **February 18**

*Scripture:* Psalm 15

*Contemplation:* In this Psalm we see a description of a citizen of Zion, or a settler on God's holy hill (note: a holy hill is known by ancient Israelite readers as a symbol for God's temple in Jerusalem. Hills, mountains, or "high places" are symbolized throughout the Old Testament as places of worship) and one who dwells with God in His tabernacle or tent. What promise does the end of the psalm hold? How have you been discouraged in the past when you choose to speak and practice truth in your own life?

*Prayer*

### **Weekly Questions**

- Review the daily reading verses together and reflect on the daily question with one another.
- When reading the Bible as a unified story that points us to Jesus Christ consider these questions; How do these verses point to one another? How do they differ? What picture do they portray when reviewing them side by side?
- Share an example from your experience on how you have experienced this truth worked out in your community?
- Is it possible to speak the truth without love?
- How do the fruits of the spirit empower the truth we speak and practice?

## Week 3

## Commitment in



## Community

*Confess Sin and Pray for One Another*

### **February 20**

*Scripture:* James 5:13-16

*Contemplation:* In these verses is James speaking into physical or spiritual healing or both?

*Prayer*

### **February 21**

*Scripture:* 1 Corinthians 11:27-30

*Contemplation:* What is an unworthy manner when eating the bread and drinking the cup? Do you think Paul is giving the answer to this question in 1st Corinthians 11:33, 34?

*Prayer*

*Forgive One Another*

### **February 22**

*Scripture:* Colossians 3:13

*Contemplation:* Can you describe the Lord's forgiveness for you?

*Prayer*

### **February 23**

*Scripture:* Matthew 18:23-35

*Contemplation:* What are the principles of forgiveness that are being shown by the king/ by the servant?

*Prayer*

### **February 24**

*Scripture:* Matthew 6:12-15

*Contemplation:* What do we learn about forgiveness in Matthew 6:12 -15? What do we learn about forgiveness and Colossians 3:13?

*Prayer*

### **February 25**

*Scripture:* Mark 11:25 & Ephesians 4:32

*Contemplation:* What is the condition that you need to meet to be forgiven by the father in Mark 11:25? Does that same condition exist in Ephesians 4:32?

*Prayer*

### **Weekly Questions**

- On confession - What is the biblical definition of confess?
- On prayer - what is the biblical definition of prayer?
- On forgiveness - what is the biblical definition of forgiveness?
- Are we applying each of these in our lives in accordance with the biblical definition?

## Week 4

## Commitment in



*Do Not Judge One Another*

### **February 27**

*Scripture:* Matthew 7:1-6, James 5:7-9

*Contemplation:* The Greek word for judgment literally means “to separate.” What place does judging have in our lives when we are called to be reconcilers and “bring things back together?”

*Prayer*

### **February 28**

*Scripture:* John 8:1-11

*Contemplation:* What can we learn from judging as Jesus did here? Do we judge as graciously as this powerful example? How not/How so?

*Prayer*

### **March 1**

*Scripture:* Romans 12

*Contemplation:* Consider the One Body imagery. In what manner does the hand judge the foot? Even if the foot missteps and we stumble, the hand does not attack the foot, but instead quickly reaches out to break the fall.

*Prayer*

### **March 2**

*Scripture:* James 4:7-12, Romans 2:1-4

*Contemplation:* At whatever point we pass judgment on one another is actually condemning ourselves. Are there things we can confess and repent of today in order to not condemn ourselves?

*Prayer*

### **March 3**

*Scripture:* 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

*Contemplation:* How can we handle disputes in a God honoring way?

*Prayer*

### **March 4**

*Scripture:* Romans 14:1-23

*Contemplation:* Paul warns us of passing judgment in “disputable matters.” How should we define a “disputable matter?”

*Prayer*

## **Weekly Questions**

- What “disputable matters” are issues that could potentially (or already) divide us?
- Compare 1 Corinthians 6:1-11 and Romans 14. What is the difference between the judgment Pauls warns against and the judgment he promotes in Corinthians?
- Paul warns Christians against taking each other to court, and instead resolve our disputes among ourselves. Yet, this is a common practice. Why? What have we lost, forgotten or using to justify lawsuits?