

**one  
month  
to live**

*Love Completely*

*Week Two*

**JOURNEY**  
lutheran ministries

[www.Journeylutheranministries.org](http://www.Journeylutheranministries.org)

# Love Completely

## **Connect** *(10 minutes)*

Last week we focused on living passionately. Living involves risk; it has ups and downs. It has celebrations and crashes. What is a lesson you've learned from one of your life's crashes? How has your character or faith grown because of this crash?

## **Respond** *(10 minutes)*

Each of us want to be loved. You have learned that love is more than words, love is action. Who needs to be assured you love them?

What is keeping you from spending the time to display your love to them in words or actions?

What specific steps can you do over the next weeks to connect with one of them and share your heart?

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**Expand** (60 minutes)

*“He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love.”—Martin Luther King Jr.*

1. Do you think it is possible to love completely if you are unwilling to forgive? Does loving completely mean ignoring people’s faults?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Our sinful nature nudges us to focus on the faults of others. Yet God calls us to see our own faults and drives us to ask for forgiveness.

*Matthew 7 says, “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. 3 “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. 6 “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.*

What usually motivates your observations concerning the specks of others? Why is it easier to focus on others’ specks, rather than your own log?

**READ John 8:2-11** (NIV 1984, ©1984)

<sup>2</sup> At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. <sup>3</sup> The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group <sup>4</sup> and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup> In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” <sup>6</sup> They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. <sup>7</sup> When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.” <sup>8</sup> Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup> At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. <sup>10</sup> Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” <sup>11</sup> “No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

3. Read vs. 5-6 again. Did the Pharisees care about the woman? When have you chosen to focus on a fault rather than on a relationship with a person?
  
4. What relationships are unhealthy in your life? How are you handling these relationships? How can repentance and forgiveness change them?

5. Jesus says “If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.” On Easter we heard how God has removed the stones from our lives, so why do you find yourself picking them up and wanting to throw them at people? Why do you think in Luke, everyone dropped their stones and walked away? What stones in your life do you need to drop and walk away from?

6. What do you need to ask forgiveness from God? As you have confessed to God, know that He FORGIVES YOU! Now, you don't have to hold this against yourself any longer!

7. Who else will you ask to forgive you, no matter what the situation?

8. You may not think you are ready for this, but YOU ARE! Who do you wish was a part of this sermon series, so that they would be connecting with you to be forgiven?

Don't wait for them to come to you, be willing to share with them that you want to restore the relationship, and forgive them. This may do more for your spiritual health than theirs.

**Honor** (3 minutes)

**Pray,**

- Asking God to help you remove the two-by-four in your own life before speaking about someone else's specks.
- For those you consider essential in your life, asking God to reveal how you can improve your relationship with these people.

**Apply** (7 minutes)

- ❖ Make a gratitude list of five little things that you often take for granted.

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- ❖ Who is it that you need to thank? Who is it that you are grateful for, who is it that has helped change your life? This week take the time to communicate with them and share with them why you are thanking them and how your life has changed.

## **One Month to Live Cliff Notes**

### **Day 8**

**When we ask God for help He promises to get involved in our lives with His power, strength, and His resources so we can live our lives at full throttle.**

### **Day 9**

**When you really understand how much God loves, you can trust Him with all areas of your life and you can show this love to others.**

### **Day 10**

**God wants us to forgive others for our own sake because bitterness blocks the blessings that He wants to pour into our lives.**

### **Day 11**

**The three essentials for strong relationships with others are accepting others, loving actions towards others, and ongoing forgiveness. We do this because God loves us.**

### **Day 12**

**When we walk with the Lord in our daily devotional life we will find that resolving conflicts with others will be easier for us to do.**

### **Day 13**

**God puts annoying people into our lives to make our character strong, steady and to smooth out our rough edges.**

### **Day 14**

**Living a life of gratitude gives us the power to heal spiritually, emotionally, and relationally. It has the power to transform our lives.**

### **Day 15**

**We can open our hearts to others by investing time, listening, discovering what they love, their interests and their dreams. Three words summarize our efforts; connecting, sharing, and**

# NOTES