



## Road Trip: Love | August 8, 2018

### Discussion Guide

#### The Scoop

Summer love is one of those fun but fleeting feelings; it contrasts the type of love that our faith requires.

#### Key Verses

##### Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV)

*"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."*

#### Discussion

When you think about a road trip, it's hard not to envision something like a VW bus. There is just something about them that screams adventure. For a newly married couple, owning a bus like this could mean lots of time for these adventures. Exactly what everyone craves most during the summer months. Owning a bus like this, as a married couple, is not a fleeting kind of adventure like a summer romance, however, but an adventure where two committed individuals must keep showing up; keep choosing to love.

1. What type of vehicle comes to mind when you think about a road trip?
2. In your opinion, what is the difference between a fleeting summer romance and a marriage?

Every marriage, even for newly married couples, will face challenges and hard times. Despite these challenges, one of the key ingredients of making a marriage work is continuing to choose love even when you don't feel like choosing it. As broken and selfish humans, that can feel unnatural and unjust. But if we believe that God has chosen us for this life, then we must also believe that we get the privilege of choosing every day to love those around us – whether that is our spouse, family or friends.

3. Describe a time where you didn't feel like choosing to love, but did so anyway. What was the situation? How did it make you feel? How did it make others feel?
4. Why is it challenging to choose love? What is often the easier option?

In Colossians 3:12-14, we read about a kind of love that's distinctively different than a fleeting summer romance. The bible says that as God's chosen people, we have been set apart for a new life of love. This new life includes both choice and sacrifice; it's not built on feelings alone. The passage continues to say that we must make a choice every day, similar to when we choose what clothes we're going to wear, of which Godly qualities we are going to clothe ourselves with. But regardless of what we choose to put on, we are told to put on love. It's the all-purpose, basic garment we are never meant to be without.

5. Does it make sense to you that every day we have a choice to clothe ourselves with Godly qualities? Why or why not?
6. Why do you think love trumps all of the other qualities (compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience) mentioned in this passage?

#### What's Next?

As you think about your faith journey, and the different things you have to pack, the one thing that you should never leave home without is love. When life is difficult, when something punches you in the gut, as Christians we get to choose love in the way that we react. And when we choose to react with love, people will get to see and know our God and want to know more.

This week, as you live out your faith, consider the places you can better love or choose to love when you don't feel like it. Make a conscious decision to "put on love" every day when you wake up this week.