WEEK 3

BE DEVOTED TO ONE ANOTHER



PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

Romans 12:9–13; Ruth 1:8–17

BIG TRUTH

God's family is marked by enduring affection, honor, loyalty, and practical care.

PREPARE: READ AND OBSERVE

Read Romans 12:9–13 and Ruth 1:8–17. Circle repeated words, underline commands, and note what the passages reveal about God, people, and relationships.

My first observations or questions:

KNOW: UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH

As you study these passages, consider what it means to be devoted to one another as members of God's family. Pay attention to how sincere love, honor, and faithful commitment shape the way we care for one another.

Devotion Is Family-Shaped Love
Romans 12 combines sincere love with warm family affection. The church is not an audience gathered around a stage; it is a household joined in Christ.

Honor Notices and Lifts Others
To "outdo" one another in honor means taking the lead in showing respect and appreciation. Honor is not flattery, celebrity culture, or pretending sin does not exist. It recognizes God's grace and image in another person.

Devotion Stays When Staying Costs
Ruth clung to Naomi when Naomi appeared to have nothing to offer. Covenant-like devotion does not ask only, "What am I getting?" It asks, "How can I faithfully seek your good?"

Doctrine: What We Believe
Through adoption, God brings believers into His household (Ephesians 2:19; Galatians 4:4–7). Our devotion is grounded in our shared identity in Christ, not in usefulness, status, ethnicity, or social similarity.

Supplemental Passages: Acts 2:42–47 • Romans 12:9–16 • Philippians 2:3–4 • Ephesians 2:19–22 • 1 Peter 2:17

KNOW QUESTIONS

1. What instructions does Paul give believers in Romans 12:9–13? What picture of community emerges?

2. How did Naomi honor Ruth and Orpah? How did Ruth honor Naomi?

3. What is the difference between honor and flattery?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

Move from what the text means to what faithful obedience looks like in your actual relationships. Choose at least two questions to answer fully before the group meets.

1. Would people experience you as devoted to God's family? What evidence supports your answer?

2. Who do you tend to overlook or give less attention to? What influences the way you prioritize your relationships?

3. Where does convenience currently limit your commitment to community?

4. Name one person you can intentionally lift up this week. How can you do this?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

This Week's Practice
Honor two people specifically: tell each one what evidence of God's grace you see in them, and take one practical step to strengthen your connection.

My specific person, action, and time:

REFLECT: ATTEND TO THE HEART

Take time to examine your heart in light of what you've learned. Consider what the Holy Spirit is revealing about your attitudes, fears, and relationships as He forms you to reflect Christ.

1. Do you approach the church mainly as family, an event, a resource, or an obligation?

2. How do you respond when someone else receives the attention you wanted?

3. What would costly devotion look like in your present season?

RESPOND AND PRAY

Father, teach me to love Your household with sincere affection, loyal presence, and Christlike honor.

One truth I want to remember:

One step I will practice:

People and needs we will pray for: