

# Week One: This Isn't Trouble

## Leader Meeting Outline

### Group Begins

- (Welcome group members)
- This week we are reviewing chapter 1, which challenged us to examine our hearts more carefully when it comes to loving biblically despite our circumstances.
- Let's read the quote from author Gloria Furman at the beginning of the chapter and then we'll pray.
- (Read Gloria Furman quote on pg. xxii of *Clean Home, Messy Heart*)
- (Lead group in opening prayer)

### Chapter 1 Group Review

#### Opening Questions

- How did you relate to the opening story of this chapter?
- Would someone please share a part in the "Messiness of Love" section that really spoke to them?

#### Washing with the Word Reflections

- Sometimes our convictions can lead us to be sorrowful about our sin struggles. But God's Word has the power to change our hearts and show us the way to love *in the fit and the fight*. This sort of godly grief is actually good for us because it leads us to repent and ask for grace.
- (Turn bibles to 2 Corinthians 7:10 and ask a member to read aloud)
- All of our circumstances, trials included, are carefully crafted by our loving Father to bring about our sanctification.
- (Turn bibles to Romans 5:3-4 and ask a member to read aloud)
- Let's read the first main scripture in the Washing with the Word section. Please turn your bibles to Romans 5:8.
- (Read Romans 5:8 aloud to group)
- Was there anything in this section that stood out to you?
- Let's look to Christ's example of what biblical love really looks like. Turn your bibles to 1 John 3:16.
- (Have a group member read 1 John 3:16 aloud)
- Did anyone have anything from this section they wanted to share?
- The author writes, "To love sacrificially means to love without *prerequisite* or *requirement*?" What does this mean to you in light of Christ's sacrificial love toward us?
- Now let's see how the Holy Spirit empowers us to grow in the area of loving our children and others biblically. Turn your bibles to 2 Timothy 1:7.
- (Read 2 Timothy 1:7 aloud to group)
- Was there something in this last section that convicted or encouraged you?

## *Hanging Hearts Out to Dry from Page 8*

### **Study Reflection**

- Let's discuss our responses to the reflection question on page 8 asking about what it looks like to love someone biblically. First, let's read the scriptures together.
- *(Divide the three scriptures up between the group members, each reading one: John 3:16, Matthew 5:43-48, and Luke 6:27-36)*
- *(Ask each member to share their reflection response)*

### **Scripture Memorization**

- Now let's test ourselves on this week's memory verse.
- *(Note: the method how you do this should be pre-determined by the preference of your group. See Small Group Leader Kit Introduction for suggestions)*

### **Prayer**

- Will somebody read Romans 5:8 aloud for us *(take moment to read)*? We don't need to share the specific prayers that we wrote from this chapter, but would anyone like to share a summary of how the Spirit spoke to their heart during this week's reading?

**Reflection Journal Users:** You may or may not choose to review the 5 Scriptures from this week's reflection journal. If you would like to, take turns reading the verses aloud and discuss how the Spirit convicted and/or encouraged them through their reflection journaling time.

## *Group Ends*

- *(Conclude meeting by asking for prayer requests and prayer reports. Then lead group in closing prayer.)*