

# SERMON STUDY GUIDE

## ALL YOU NEED (H)IS LOVE

"Philia Love" | February 23, 2025

Scripture Passages: John 15:12-15, Proverbs 17:17, Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

### Intro

Philia love, the Greek word for deep friendship, is a love built on trust, mutual respect, and shared faith. It is the kind of love that Jesus showed to His disciples, calling them friends rather than servants.

- What does true friendship look like in your life?
- Have you ever had a friendship that strengthened your faith?

### Study and Reflection

John 15:12-15 (NIV): "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Philia love is distinct from other types of love because it is intentional and selfless. Jesus modeled this love by investing deeply in His disciples.

### Key Aspects of Philia Love:

1. Friendship Is Strength in Times of Trouble
  - Proverbs 17:17: "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."
  - True friendship remains steady through hardships, offering encouragement and support.
  - Reflection: When have you experienced a friend's support in a difficult time?
2. Friendship Is a Source of Growth
  - Ecclesiastes 4:9-10: "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."
  - God designed friendships to refine and shape us spiritually.
  - Reflection: How has a friend helped you grow in faith and character?
3. Friendship Is Rooted in Sacrifice
  - Jesus defined ultimate friendship as laying down one's life for others (John 15:13).
  - Philia love requires selflessness, placing others' needs above our own.
  - Reflection: What are ways you can sacrificially love your friends this week?

### Application

As believers, we are called to build deep, Christ-centered friendships that reflect God's love to the world.

- Invest in friendships that encourage your faith.
- Be a friend who listens, prays, and supports others.
- Model Christ's sacrificial love in your relationships.

## **Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Who in your life models Philia love well?
2. How can you cultivate deeper, more meaningful friendships in Christ?
3. In what ways do you struggle to be a selfless friend?
4. How can our church community grow in showing Philia love to one another?

## **Reflection and Prayer**

- Thank God for the gift of friendship and the people who have strengthened your faith.
- Ask for wisdom in being a Christlike friend to others.
- Pray for healing and restoration in broken friendships.

## **Resources for Further Study:**

- *The Four Loves* by C.S. Lewis
- *Friendship Factor* by Alan Loy McGinnis
- *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer