



**The Good & Beautiful God**  
**Matthew 9:9-13**  
**February 14, 2010**

**Week #5: God is Love**

**CONNECTION.....30 Minutes**

1. Take a few minutes for introductions and give people a chance to catch up and connect with one another.

2. **Review the Assigned Soul Training Exercises From Last Week:**

Were you able to spend 5 minutes every day or most days in silence?

Were you able to develop margin in any way this week? If so, describe what you did and how you felt about it.

As you tried to develop margin in your life, what did you notice was the most difficult?  
What was the most rewarding?

How do you plan to practice the discipline of margin in the future?

What, if anything, did you learn about God or yourself through the exercise?

3. Be still and spend a few moments in silence and then invite the Spirit of God to join and lead your group.



**ACTION.....30 Minutes**

1. Again, find 5 minutes each day to sit in silence. During this time, your thoughts may run rampant. If so, you can do the following 2 things to help still your mind:

Have a notepad nearby to jot down things that may come to your mind. This will help to quiet your mind. or ease into the time by reading the bible for a minute or two.

2. Set a time and place each day this week to meet with God in His Word and reflect upon the text found in I Corinthians 13:1-8. The frequency and duration of these meetings are between you and your Creator. It may be helpful for you to consider the text in several different translations

This week, consider making "lectio divina" a part of your time with God.

Lectio Divina is Latin for "spiritual reading." It represents an early technique of prayer intended to achieve communion with God, as well as providing special spiritual insights. It is a way of praying with Scripture that calls one to study, ponder, listen and, finally, pray from God's Word. The key is formational reading and listening, not informational Bible study.

**Read**

Read the passage aloud, slowly and gently. As you hear the words, pay attention to any particular words or phrases that stand out to you or capture your attention.

**Read again and share**

Read the passage aloud again, but this time as you read ask God silently why He might have wanted you to pay particular attention to the word or phrase you identified in part one. Share the word or phrase that stood out to you.

**Read one more time and share**

Read it aloud one more time while asking God to reveal what He wants you to do or how he wants you to respond to Him through the thoughts raised from the scripture. Share what you sense is your personal response.

**Listen and take action**

Take some time to sit in silent prayer resting in the presence of God and listening for any further word from Him. Commit to take action on what you were led to.

3. Share any items of Community News

\*The content of this Study Guide is taken from **The Good & Beautiful God** – James Bryan Smith