



*love where  
you live*



JEFF JONES



# contents

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# note from the pastor

Welcome to *Love Where You Live!*

Did you know a million people live within a 10-mile radius of our church? Think about that—all around us are a million stories, life experiences, hurts, and needs. And, while every one of these million people is deeply loved by God, statistics tell us a vast majority do not have a relationship with Him. This begs an important question: How has God uniquely placed you and me to live out and reflect His heart for those all around us?

Over the next four sessions, we will dive into an important discussion about how to tangibly and actively demonstrate God's love right here and right now. We'll discuss how God has placed each of us where we are with a great purpose to live out. Out of all the series and conversations we have as a church, this might be God's favorite because it reflects His heart for those far from Him.

I've really enjoyed preparing these sessions, and I'm looking forward to diving into some big conversations together. A life of purpose and great impact is something most of us want, but it doesn't just happen. It takes intentionality and being open to disruption when God brings needs and people into our daily lives. So, thank you ahead of time for being intentional with this discussion and being open to what God has to say to each of us personally and to all of us as a church. I'm excited to see what God will do in us and through us as we think through how to live out God's big mission each and every day.



# using this workbook

*Tools to help you have a great small group experience!*

- 1** Notice in the Table of Contents there are three sections: (1) Sessions; (2) Appendices; and (3) Small Group Leaders. Familiarize yourself with the Appendices. Some of them will be used in the sessions themselves.
- 2** If you are leading or co-leading a small group, the section Small Group Leaders will give you tips for effective leadership, encourage you, and help you avoid a few common obstacles.
- 3** Use this workbook as a guide, not a straitjacket. If the group responds to the lesson in an unexpected but honest way, go with that. If you think of a better question than the next one in the lesson, ask it. Take to heart the insights included in the Frequently Asked Questions pages and the Small Group Leaders section.
- 4** Enjoy your small group experience.
- 5** Pray before each session—for your group members, for your time together, and for wisdom and insights.
- 6** Read the Outline for Each Session on the next pages so you understand how the sessions will flow.



# outline of each session

*A typical group session for the Love Where You Live study will include the following sections. Read through this to get a clear idea of how each group meeting will be structured*

**WEEKLY MEMORY VERSES.** Each session opens with a memory verse that emphasizes an important truth from the session. This is an optional exercise, but we believe memorizing Scripture is a powerful way to grow spiritually. We encourage you to give this important habit a try. The verses for each session are also listed in the appendix.

**INTRODUCTION.** Each lesson opens with a brief thought that will help you prepare for the session and get you thinking about that week's topic. Make it a practice to read these before the session. You may want to have the group read them aloud.

**SHARE YOUR STORY.** The foundation for spiritual growth is an intimate connection with God and His family. You build that connection by sharing your story with a few people who really know you and who earn your trust. This section includes some simple questions to get you talking—letting you share as much or as little of your story as you choose.

**HEAR GOD'S STORY.** In this section, you'll read the Bible and listen to teaching in order to hear God's story—and begin to see how His story aligns with yours. When the study directs you to, you'll watch a short teaching segment on video. You'll then have an opportunity to read a passage of Scripture and discuss both the teaching and the text. The goal isn't to accumulate information but to apply the insights from Scripture to your daily life.

**STUDY NOTES.** This brief section provides additional commentary, background, or insights on the passage you've studied or on some aspect of the video teaching.

**CREATE A NEW STORY.** In this section, you'll have an opportunity to go beyond Bible study to biblical living. This section will also have a question or two that will challenge you to live out your faith by serving others, sharing your faith, or worshiping God.

**FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY.** If you have time and want to dig deeper into more Bible passages about the topic, we've provided additional passages and questions. You can use them during the meeting or as homework. Your group may choose to read and prepare before each meeting in order to cover more biblical material. Or group members can use the additional study section during the week after the meeting. If you prefer not to do study homework, this section will provide you with plenty to discuss within the group. These options allow individuals or the whole group to expand their study while still accommodating those who can't do homework or are new to your group.

**DAILY DEVOTIONS.** Each week on the Daily Devotions pages, we provide Scriptures to reflect on between sessions. This provides you with a chance to slow down, read just a small portion of Scripture each day, and pray through it. You'll then have a chance to journal your response to what you've read. Use this section to seek God on your own throughout the week. This time at home should begin and end with prayer. Don't get in a hurry; take enough time to hear from God and talk to Him!