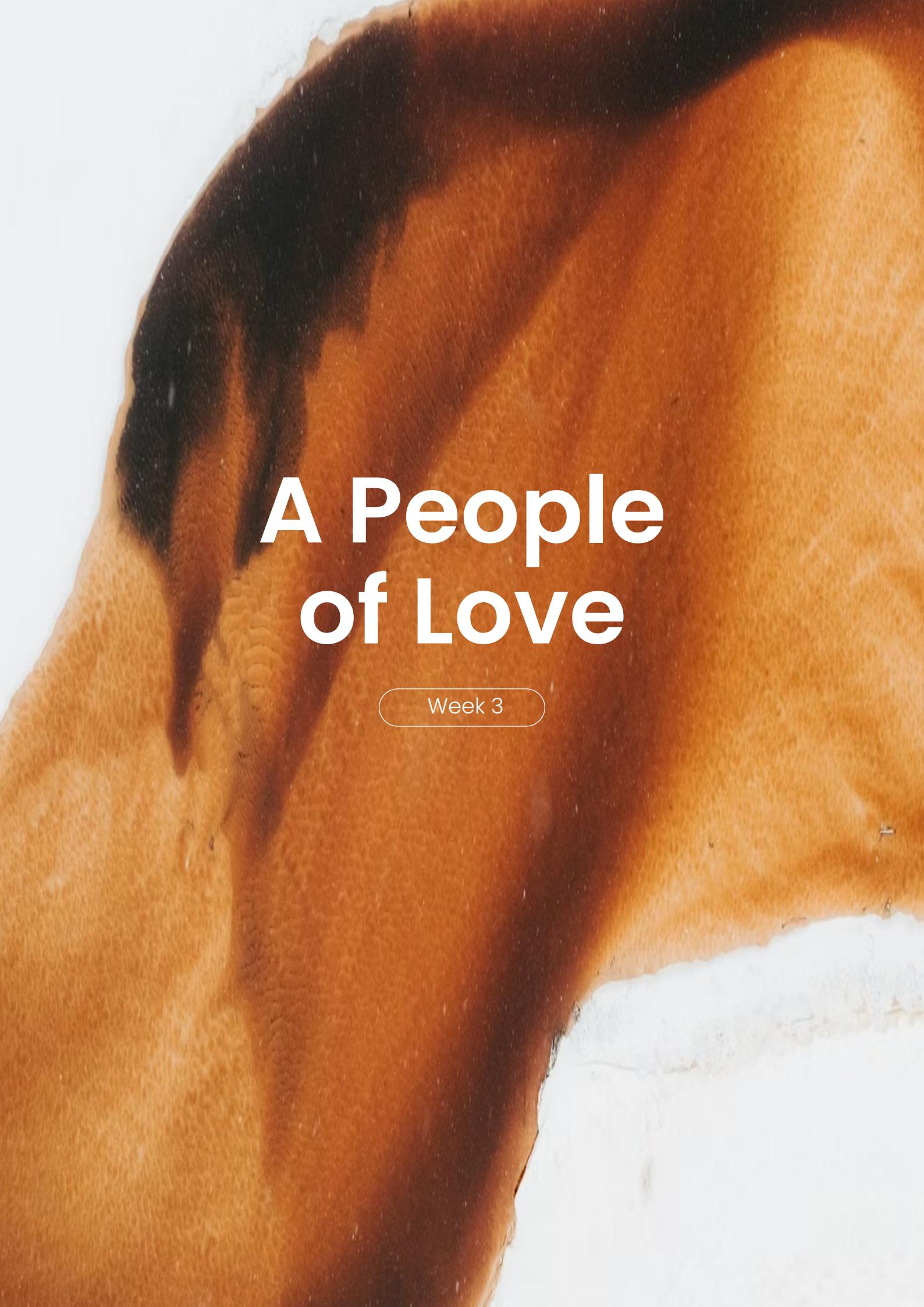




B E C O M I N G



January Teaching Series



A People of Love

Week 3

Overview

As followers of Jesus, we are becoming **people of love—marked by open hands and open tables**. Through generosity and hospitality, God still brings salvation into homes today.

In the story of Zacchaeus, we see what happens when Jesus really changes a person. Zacchaeus was wealthy and powerful, but also deeply broken in how he treated others. Money had become more than a tool for him—it was a source of security and control. But when Jesus noticed him, called him by name, and chose to eat at his house, everything shifted.

Zacchaeus didn't change because Jesus demanded it. He changed because grace met him first. Once Jesus became his true treasure, money lost its power over him. What once defined him became something he could freely give away. **Generosity** wasn't about earning salvation—it was the natural result of a transformed heart.

This is why Jesus cares about money. Our spending and giving reveal what we trust most. Where our treasure goes, our hearts follow. Gospel generosity flows from gratitude, not guilt.

Hospitality plays just as big a role in this story. Jesus creates space for transformation by sharing a meal. Around a table, a lost man is found. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus is constantly eating with people because meals turn strangers into neighbors and open doors for real relationship.

Reading

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Luke 19:1-10 NIV

1 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. 5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. 7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." 8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." 9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Discussion

How would you describe your current relationship with money?

How can money quietly move from being a tool to being a god?

What does it look like for generosity to flow from gratitude rather than guilt?

Why do you think meals and tables are so central in Jesus' ministry?

What would "radically ordinary hospitality" look like in your life (a meal, coffee, invitation, conversation)?

Practice

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Choose one – Practice generosity & hospitality this week:

1. Money Practice:

Review your finances prayerfully and ask, “*God, what does trust look like here?*”

2. Hospitality Practice:

Share a meal or meaningful time with someone outside your normal circle.

3. Invitation Practice:

Prayerfully invite one person to church, group, or a table.

Further Resources

Videos: Becoming Teaching Series – Abbalove Church

Book: Practicing the Way – John Mark Comer

Book: Invitation to a Journey – Robert Mulholland

Book: Renovation of the Heart – Dallas Willard



**Becoming a
People of love
For the Sake of
The Chino
Valley**