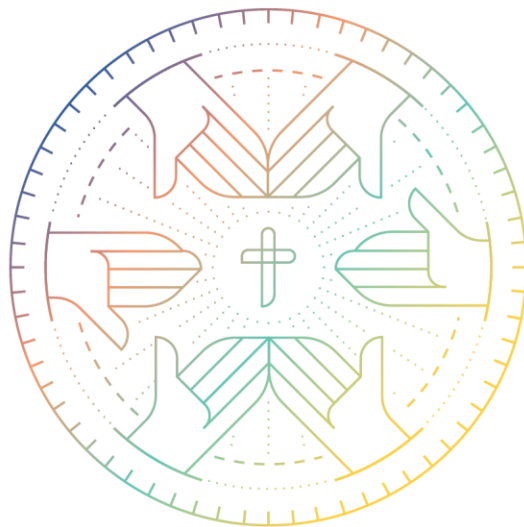


Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



MEETING AGENDA

WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

This week we are continuing our series *Love: Underused & Over-delivered*. In our second week, we will look at how patience and kindness play a foundational role in how we live out love.

Don't forget to take attendance via the attendance reminder email.

ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

When was the last time you ran out of patience with someone?

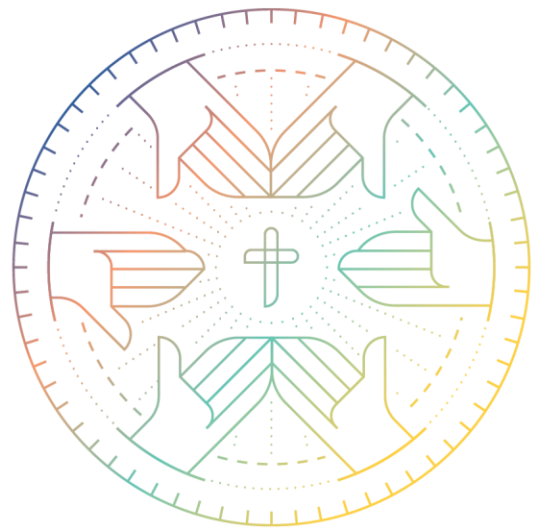
INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES) WORK IN PROGRESS

Anchor Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:1-4a

Paul continues his instruction to the Corinthian church looking at two foundational aspects patience and kindness. We will look at how patience and kindness play a foundational role in how we live out love.

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INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-4a, 1 Thessalonians 5:14, and Ephesians 4:1-3. There are five essential components of patience.
 - It starts with an awareness of God's patience.
 - It requires the capacity to be wronged and not retaliate
 - It requires a willingness to wait for change
 - It calms quarrels and promotes unity
 - It watches for the lure of giving up on someone

Of the components listed, which one sticks out to you and why?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. "Although most people consider patience to be a passive waiting or gentle tolerance, most of the Greek words translated "patience" in the New Testament are active, robust words... A Christian runs the race patiently by persevering through difficulties. In the Bible, patience is persevering towards a goal, enduring trials, or expectantly waiting for a promise to be fulfilled. (Gotquestions.com)]

2. Read Exodus 34:6-7 and 2 Peter 3:9. What sticks out to you about how God is patient towards us? What ramifications it may have for how we are patient with each other?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. Dr. Harry Reeder states, "God is patient. He doesn't have to learn it. He is it. He is not developing it. He continually displays it. I am grateful that I can count on the fact that the God of all grace and glory is patient." We must start with a foundational understanding that we can be patient with others because God is patient with us. Longsuffering love and undeserved kindness that honors God is so hard that we can't practice it without God's help.]

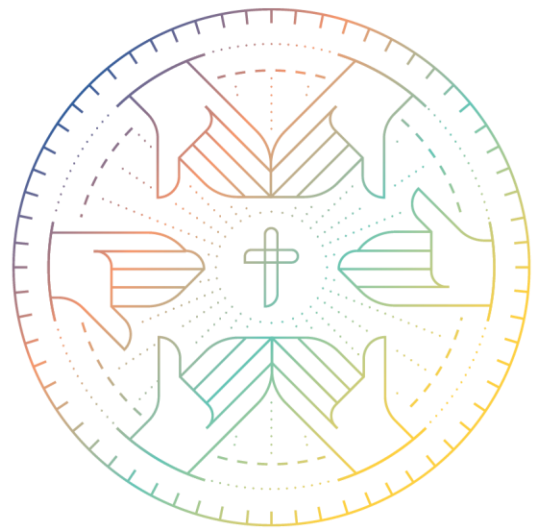
3. Read 1 Peter 4:8, Hebrews 10:24-25 and Galatians 6:9. Part of practicing patience is resisting the urge to give up on people in your life. Do you find this an easy or complicated thing to do? What takeaways do we see from the scripture we just looked at?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. We all have people in our lives that are difficult to deal with. As followers of Christ, we are called to move past those difficulties and practice patience in our relationships. In 1 Peter 4, we see the instruction to love earnestly. In doing so, we can look past those things that make doing life with them difficult. In Hebrews 10, we are commanded to stir up and invest in one another, which takes vital patience. Finally, we are called to practice endurance, knowing that God works in his timing, and at times that can mean a long time for us to practice patience.]

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APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

1. **Read Romans 12:12 and Romans 15:5. Where in your life do you need to begin implementing patience in your relationships?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. Examples could include your spouse, kids, coworkers, friends, relatives, etc. James Speigel of Christianity today states, "While every day our patience is tested and, we can hope, increased, we must be mindful of the process of sanctification and how God is at work in our difficulties, even in tiny annoyances, to make us more like Jesus. But as Peter says, we must "prepare [our] minds for action" (1 Peter 1:13). We must be intentional about increasing our patience, perhaps even by using mental exercises, but definitely by practicing the spiritual disciplines. Let us focus ever more clearly on the example of Christ in order to imitate him in all things, large and small."]

2. **Read Proverbs 21:21 and Ephesians 4:32. There are three essential components of kindness. They are:**
 - **Actively seeking the good for someone**
 - **Choosing to hope and assume the best**
 - **Leave the secret sins of others to God**

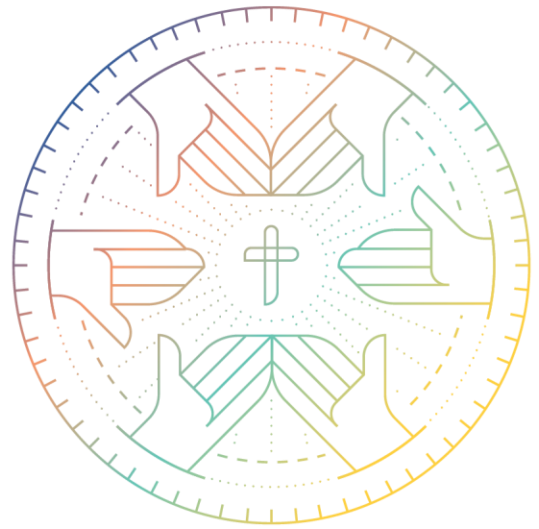
What would change in your life this week if you began practicing these three components?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. "Paul is not writing inspirational poetry. Nor is he penning something meant to be a simple starry-eyed mantra. He is driving home a pointed message to the divided, often selfish Christians in Corinth: This is how God expects believers to treat each other. Lack of Christ-like love was at the heart of every one of the problems described in 1 Corinthians so far." (bibleref.com)]

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PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Dear heavenly Father,

Help us to be known for our patience and kindness. May we grow in our awareness of the patience that you have shown us. Help us not to seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved as to love. May we be active in seeking the good in others. To choose to hope and assume the best in others. We pray all these things in your excellent name. Amen.