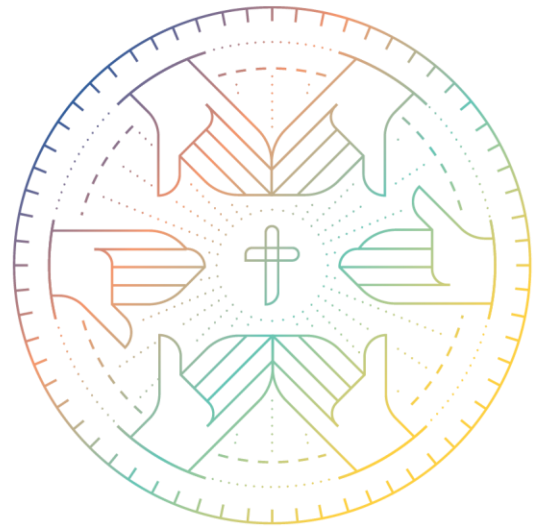


Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



MEETING AGENDA

WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

This week we are continuing our series *Love: Over-used & Under-lived*. In our fourth week, we will examine how our self-centered natures lead us towards arrogance and rudeness and how authentic love reorients us to view others in a new light.

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

ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

Where in culture do you see the idea of the individual being the center of their universe celebrated?

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Anchor Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:1-4

Paul continues his instruction to the Corinthian church by examining how our self-centered natures lead us towards arrogance and rudeness and how authentic love reorients us to view others in a new light.

INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

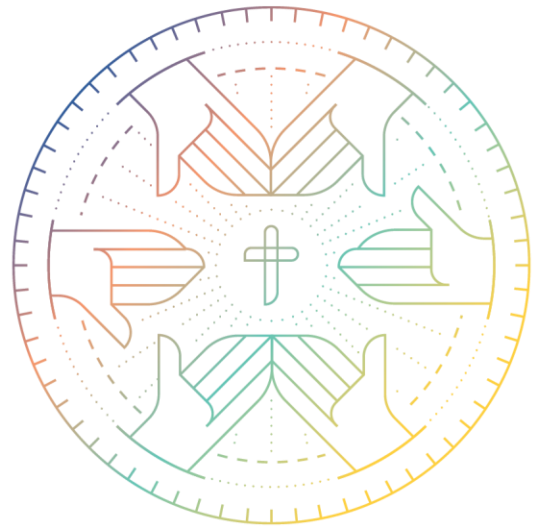
1. **Read Proverbs 16:5 and 2 Timothy 3:1-5. Arrogance is defined as puffing something up or making a thing natural. What sticks out to you about how arrogance is described based on these passages?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. In Proverbs 16, we see that being arrogant in heart is an abomination or disgusting to God. In 2 Timothy 3, we see a list of how this arrogance plays out in the last days and in people's lives. He concludes this thought by not having or being identified as someone like that. Where the world pushes us to strive to reach the top and says that "he who has the most toys wins," Jesus commands us to be different: "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Luke 14:11; cf. James 4:6). (gotquestions.org)]

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2. Read Ephesians 4:15 and 1 Peter 3:15. Rudeness is defined as acting unbecoming or inappropriately. How do you see rudeness show up in the world today? Should this differ from how we interact with other believers based on these passages?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. Public behavior and words that were unthinkable a generation ago are now commonplace. We live in what essayist Merrill Markoe in the Wall Street Journal calls a “renaissance of rudeness.” The fact is that rudeness is rooted in selfishness. Manners are meant to reduce the friction of human interaction; discourtesy reveals a lack of consideration for others. The ill-mannered person is communicating that “it’s all about me.” Love, by contrast, cannot be selfish for the simple reason that love is concerned for the other person’s well-being. Therefore, love is mannerly. (Gotquestions.org)]

3. Arrogance and rudeness are both rooted in selfishness. Selfishness plays out in our lives in the following ways.

- Telling us we should get our way (Galatians 5:20)
- Creating disorder and every evil action (James 3:16)
- Blaming God (Psalm 78:18)
- Causing us to turn our backs on God (Matthew 19:21-22)
- Ruining Friendships (Proverbs 18:1)
- Hindering Prayer (James 4:3)

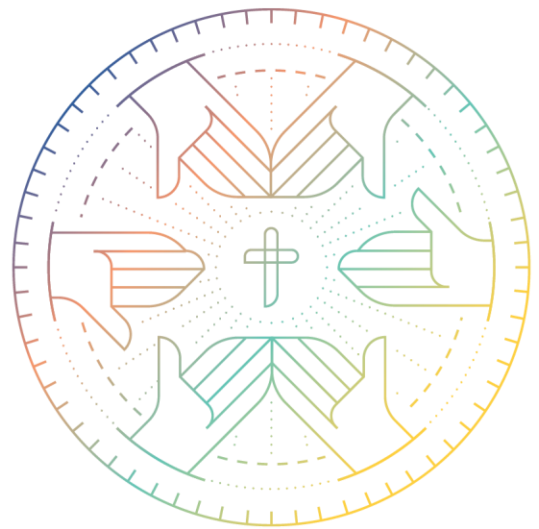
Read the attached passages and note what sticks out to you about each one.

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. Vivian Bricker of Christianity today stated, “Struggling with selfishness can happen to all of us. In fact, due to our sinful nature, we are all inherently selfish. It is only through the saving grace of Jesus and the transformation of the Holy Spirit that we can work to fight against the sin of selfishness.”]

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APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

1. **Read Philippians 2:3-4 and 1 Corinthians 10:24. It can be challenging to weed selfishness out of our lives, and the first step is identifying where we see it. Where do you tend to see selfishness show up in your life?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. C.S. Lewis states, "The happiest moments are when we forget our precious selves...but have everything else (God, our fellow humans, the animals, the garden, and the sky) instead." Selfishness will creep into every area of our lives when we are not intentionally seeking the good for others and for God.]

2. **The antidote to selfishness is selflessness. There are three ways we see selflessness play out in our lives.**
 - **Leaning into God's love for you daily (1 John 4:7-21)**
 - **Not disregarding others (Matthew 19:13-16)**
 - **Severing any claim of entitlement (Philippians 2:1-11)**

Read the corresponding passages. What would it look like practically for you this week to practice selflessness in these ways?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. The characteristic of being selfless is one of the most important traits any Christian can have. It's so significant that Jesus said it is the second most important of all God's commandments: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31; cf. Galatians 5:14). Jesus wasn't creating a new law here; He was merely agreeing with and expounding on an Old Testament law (Leviticus 19:18). James calls this the "royal" law to emphasize its supreme value to God (James 2:8). Selflessness runs counter to human nature, which is why being selfless is so much more difficult than being selfish. It's natural to care about ourselves, and we are encouraged to think selfishly from all sides. However, the Christian must daily heed the words of the apostle Paul, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" ([Galatians 2:20](#))(Gotquestions.org)]

PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Dear heavenly Father,

Thank You for loving us and helping us to love others. Let us love because it is from You and is You. May we love others through the love You have shown us. Help us to root our selfishness in our lives and cultivate selflessness in its place. In Your holy and excellent name, we pray, amen.