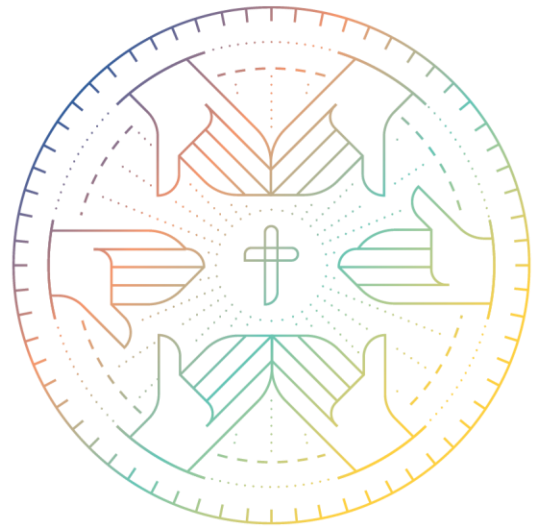


Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

When was the last time you intentionally did something for someone else without expecting anything in return?

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Anchor Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:1-5

Paul continues his instruction to the Corinthian church by examining how love does not insist on its own way. This was a defining issue that marked the Corinthian church. This was evident in the church's divisiveness regarding leadership in chapters 1–3, its attitude toward Paul in chapter 4, its attitude toward legal issues with other Christians in chapter 6, its attitude toward the Lord's Supper in chapter 11, and its attitude toward spiritual gifts in chapter 12. Paul wanted these believers to stop focusing on their own needs and preferences and serve God and one another. Today we will look at the importance of turning from self-seeking to loving outward.

INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

1. Read 1 John 2:15-17 and Philippians 2:4. Love is defined in our anchor verse as not insisting on its own way. That can also be translated as a love that is not self-seeking. Self-seeking is defined as chasing after your wants or advancing your goals because someone else is losing. It is a step beyond selfishness in that it is premeditated and devious. Where do you see this played out in our world?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 10:24 and Acts 20:35. The antidote to self-seeking is love that faces outward. It looks like:
 - a. Putting everyone's needs before their own
 - b. Not looking out for number one
 - c. Focusing on bringing joy to others
 - d. Looking for ways to help others

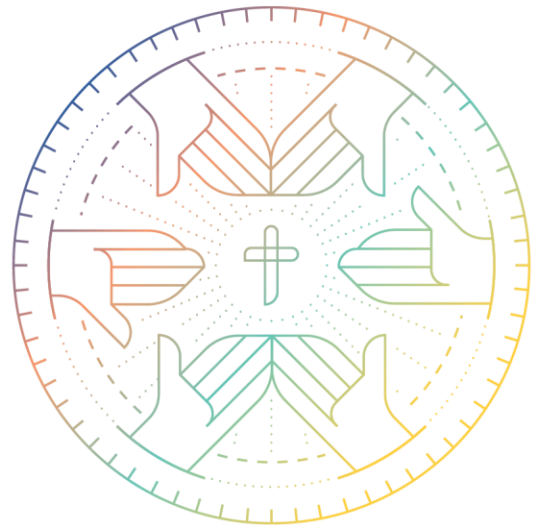
What sticks out to you, and what makes it challenging to put these into practice in our lives?

3. Read Hebrews 10:23 and Galatians 2:11-14. There are times when love does insist on its own way, and it takes wisdom to know when those times are. They are:
 - When what is being considered is clearly out of step with the truth of the Gospel.
 - When the welfare of believers is at stake.

Have you experienced times in your life when one of these situations presented itself?

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WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

1. Read Ephesians 4:15, Proverbs 3:3, and Romans 12:9. Love insists on truth, faithfulness, and goodness. What would it look like to incorporate these three more deeply into your relationships?
2. Read Luke 10:30-35. In your context, what would it look like for you to love as the Samaritan did in Jesus' story?

PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Dear heavenly Father,

Let us turn from seeking our good to the good of those around us. May we learn to incorporate truth, faithfulness, and goodness into how we love. May we hold fast to truth and speak it in love. Help us to understand the love You have for us and love others from that knowledge. In Your holy and excellent name, we pray, amen.