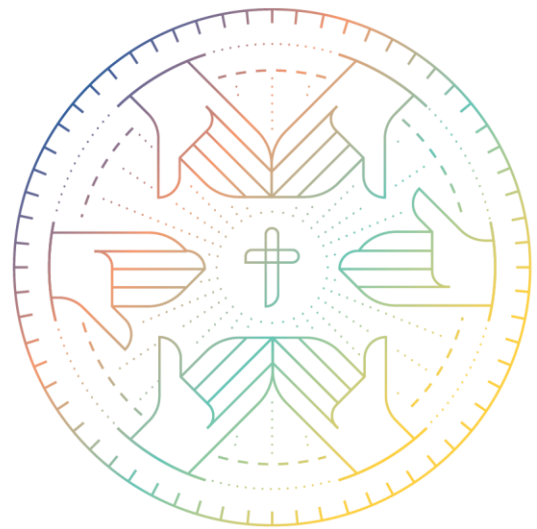


# Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

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## MEETING AGENDA

### WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

This week we wrap up our series *Love: Over-used & Under-lived*. In our last week, we will examine four things that love does. At the heart of all four is the truth that Love endures all things. We all face hard times in our lives, and when we choose to follow Jesus in the way of love, we cannot stop loving when life becomes difficult. We will see that true authentic love endures through adversity and hardship.

Next week we will begin a new Advent series titled *The Promise*, over the next five weeks as we move into the Christmas season.

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

### ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

Do you believe there is a difference between patience and endurance and what does that look like in relationships?

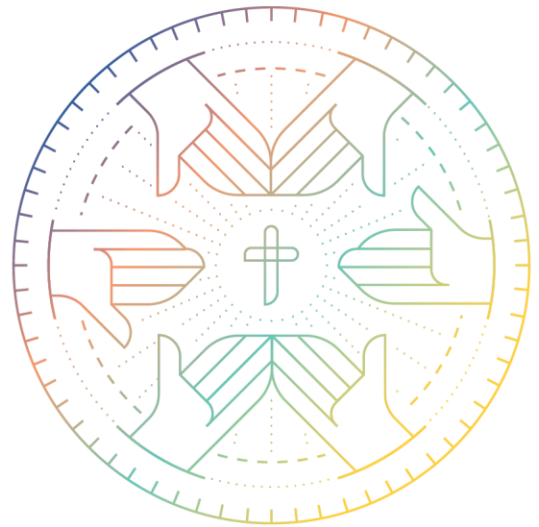
### INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Anchor Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:1-7

Paul continues his instruction to the Corinthian church by examining four things that love does. At the heart of all four is the truth that Love endures all things. We all face hard times in our lives, and when we choose to follow Jesus in the way of love, we cannot stop loving when life becomes difficult. We will see that true authentic love endures through adversity and hardship.

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## INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

1. **Read Matthew 7:12 and Galatians 5:13-14. The first thing love does in 1 Corinthians 13:7 is to bear all things. To bear all things is to accept, protect, honor, and elevate another person. Why is it hard at times to elevate and create space for others to be themselves in relationships?**

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[An important aspect in allowing people to be themselves is to check some of our expectations we may have or look past certain quirks they may have. This can be very hard for us especially if someone being themselves feels weird or wrong to us. We must in love not compromise on truth and meet people where they are at. Mother Teresa states, "Love is not patronizing and charity isn't about pity, it is about love. Charity and love are the same -- with charity you give love, so don't just give money but reach out your hand instead."]*

2. **Read Romans 1:11-12 and Romans 12:10. The second thing that love does in 1 Corinthians 13:7 is believe all things. To believe here means to not lose faith, to choose to see the good, and to offer trust to another person. Who in your life brings out the best in you? What do they do that helps you to be at your best?**

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[The Greek word translated as "believes" is a form of the verb pisteuo, which means "to believe, place faith in, or trust." The word is a common one, used 248 times in the New Testament. Many times, this word is found in contexts in which belief is an expression of love. Those who love will always "believe" in the other person. There is no second-guessing or questioning of whether the person should be loved. Love is simply given. It is unconditional. The loved one does not need to perform anything or achieve a certain goal in order to be loved. Just as Christ loves His children unconditionally, He calls us to love others. Love is based on who He is, not on what others do. (Gotquestions.org)]*

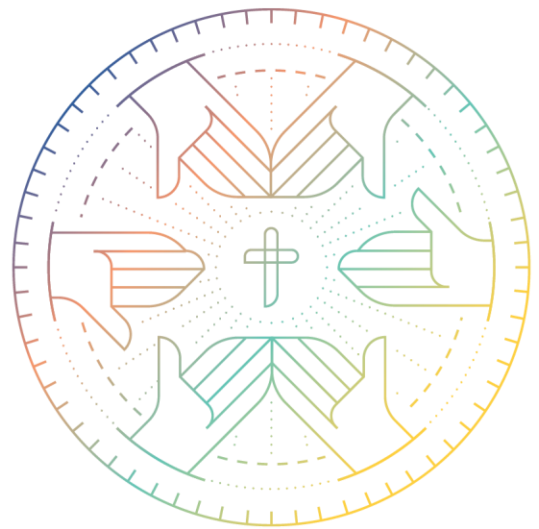
3. **Read Matthew 18:21-22 and 1 Peter 4:8. The third thing that love does in 1 Corinthians 13:7 is hope. To hope means to give others room to grow and forgive. What role does forgiveness play in true authentic love?**

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Beata Souders of positive psychology.com states, "Conflict and social harm can take a considerable toll on our psychological and physical well-being, and some argue that happiness depends to a large extent on how we respond to and recover from these difficult and painful experiences. Forgiveness looks different when we forgive a stranger versus a loved one and depends on the relationship. Many researchers and clinicians claim that forgiveness is a cornerstone of a successful marriage (e.g., Worthington, 1994)." As followers of Christ forgiveness is essential and is the foundation that our relationship with God is built upon. As such, it should be practiced in all of the relationships around us.]*

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## APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

1. **Read Proverbs 17:9, Matthew 6:14-15, and Colossians 3:13. We see the final thing that love does in 1 Corinthians 13:7 is endure. To endure means to persevere, forgive, and continue amid hardship. What would it look like for you to practice endurance in how you love and forgive those around you this week?**

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Pastor Dave Willis in his book The Seven Laws of Love, he states that Love requires commitment, it selflessly sacrifices, it speaks the truth, it conquers fear, it offers grace, it brings healing, and it lives forever. We must be reminded that love takes intentional and often hard work and is the bases that our relationship with Christ is built. Because Christ first loved and endured for us, we can do so for those around us.]*

2. **As we wrap up our time in 1 Corinthians 13, what major takeaways or applications do you have about the role of authentic love in the life of a follower of Christ?**

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Paul describes the love he's talking about. It's not a love of swollen feelings that may come and go. It's not the love of flowery or eloquent words. This is God's love—from the Greek agape—often described as "unconditional love" by Christians. It is unconditional in the sense that it does not depend on the one being loved, but on the commitment of the one acting. Paul uses 14 verbs, actions, to describe this love. Seven are positive statements about what love does, and the other seven are negative statements about what love does not do. In all cases, true Christian love is about setting one's self aside for the good of other believers. Lack of love was at the heart of nearly all the problems Paul had confronted in this letter. (gotquestions.org)]*

## PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

*Dear heavenly Father, help us love as Jesus loved. We want to love completely, be able to trust, and forgive. Lord, as we enter Thanksgiving week, we want to thank You for all the blessings and mercy You give us daily. Protect us and be with us as some of us will be traveling or others will travel to be with us. In Your holy and excellent name, we pray, amen.*