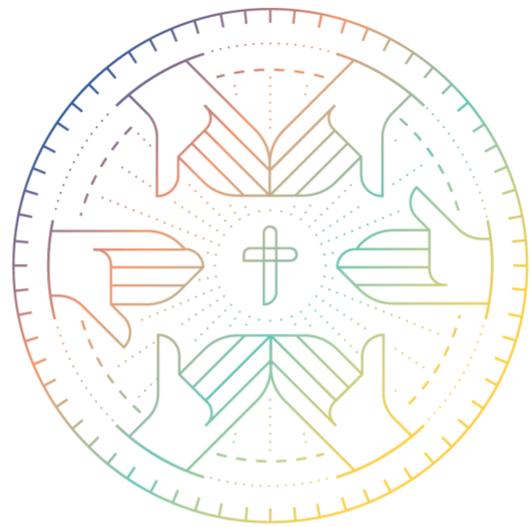


# Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



## ICEBREAKER

Think of the most loving person you've ever met or become familiar with. What's one thing about that person you would like to mimic in your own life?

OR

What's one quality of love that you've noticed in a significant person in your life (spouse, parent, friend)? How does that quality set them apart?

## INTRODUCTION

**Read 1 Corinthians 12:29-13:13.**

What most stood out to you from David's sermon?

Is love everything? Yes? No? Kind of? Talk that over in your small group.

## INTO THE WORD

**Read John 13:34-35 and 1 John 4:7-8.** Love is a "more excellent way." What is the role of love in the lives of God's people? For ourselves, for those around us, for our faith, and for our relationship with God?

**Read 2 Corinthians 3:6 and reread 1 Corinthians 13:1-3.** What happens in a person's heart that causes them to place impressive works ahead of authentic love? In other words, how do we get the letter right, but the spirit all wrong (2 Cor. 3:6)? Have you ever struggled with this?

**Read 1 John 4:20-21.** David said, "Apart from love, you are useless to God and annoying to others." How is this statement true? When love is missing from our witness, what is the net effect?

**Read Philippians 2:3-4 and 1 John 3:16-18.** How do these verses describe a person with selfless love? How do we experience the kind of love pictured in 1 Corinthians 13 in a greater measure in our life? What's our part? God's part?

## APPLICATION

Was there a particular aspect of David's message that you felt prompted by the Holy Spirit to address this week?

David asked us to consider what it looks like to be on mission with God. How did God "tap you on the shoulder" with one of the applications of love that you need in your relationships?

1. You don't expect others to be perfect.
2. You consider others' needs instinctively.
3. You rejoice in someone else's blessing, even if you aren't experiencing it yourself.
4. You advocate for the rights and entitlements of others.
5. You don't treat people like a commodity to fulfill your needs.
6. You don't insist on getting your own way.
7. You don't allow yourself to be easily triggered.
8. You resist the urge to hold onto grudges and instead let things go easily.
9. You need to speak up even if it is going to be uncomfortable.
10. You patiently endure the wounds of someone's selfishness or immaturity.
11. You never give up hope and believe in the person they can be.
12. You never give up.

Which one does God want you to focus on? Pick one and share it with your group. How can you move in that direction this week?

## DAILY THIS WEEK (Choose one of the following to practice each day this week)

Think of one relationship in your life that needs mending/repair. Consider one or two things you can do this week to encourage reconciliation. What would love do?

Ask God how you can experience more of His love. Think of ways you can help that along (mentioned above) and choose one to practice throughout this week.

Considering the list of what it looks like to be on mission with God, choose one and focus specifically on that each day this week. Talk to God about why you chose it, why it's important to you, and what you might change or add in your life to see it happen.

## PRAYER

Our Heavenly Father, as always, thank you for your love. Thank you for sending Jesus as the ultimate expression of love. We desire to experience it and express it to and from all those around us. Help us to grow in love, to love you more, and to receive your love for us. Love is everything. May it define our lives today. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.