



GROUP ICE BREAKER

What is the most ridiculous way you have heard someone use the word love?

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will stop approaching God as if it's a contract.
- I will evaluate where my covenant to God has been slipping.
- I will renew my covenant with God today.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

What is love as Jesus understood it and practiced it? The definition of love is “to will and to act for the good of someone.” To love someone is to will and act for them to become the best person God made them to be. Jesus understood love as a God-powered condition, a God powered way of life in which I will and act for the good of everyone I come in contact with. For Jesus, this quality of love is not a feeling, and it's not something you should, or even can turn on and off. It's a condition of being where I'm so rooted in God's love for me and increasingly free of sin, that I'm ready to will and to act for the good of any person who comes into my life. I must be rooted in a more secure source of love than any human being can give, in the kind of love only God can give. One of the main ways that we can express love is through words. Proverbs 25:11 says “a word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.” The right word at the right time in the right tone to the right person is gold, there is power in words. Practice using words of love and humility and aim at becoming someone who is rooted enough in love that love just flows.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13 together as a group. According to Paul, everything minus love equals nothing, but adding love is then having everything in God's eyes. What is meant by this?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 8:1. Describe the differences between someone who “knows” a lot and someone who “loves” a lot.
3. Love was defined as “to will and to act for the good of someone.” Why is it easy to love some this way and not with others?
4. Read Ephesians 3:17-19. What does it mean to be “rooted and established” in love?
5. Share with the group a time when you received the right word at the right moment from the right person. How did it impact you?

LOVE WITH WORDS

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LOVE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONT)

6. 1 Corinthians 13:4 says that “love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.” Why is it often easy to do or feel the opposite of love? What is the cause of that inwardly? What are ways you can resist this temptation and grow in love?
7. What are some practical ways you can grow in love this week to those around you?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will make it a goal to grow in love in 2020.
- I will love like Jesus loved.
- I will take an assessment to learn my love language.
- I will learn to give love the way those close to me like to receive it.
- I will reflect on Proverbs 25:11.
- I will pick someone to compliment each day this week.
- I will practice using humble words this week.
- I will go out and speak words of love this week.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3
- Matthew 22:37-40
- 1 Timothy 1:5
- 1 Corinthians 8:1
- Ephesians 3:17-19
- 1 Corinthians 13:8
- Romans 8:38-39
- Romans 12:21
- Ephesians 4:29
- Proverbs 25:11
- Romans 12:9
- 1 Corinthians 13:4
- Matthew 3:17
- Mark 1:35