

LOVE HANDLES week 2

These questions are for your growth and to prepare for the conversation in your Growth Group. We encourage you to read through them, spend some time thinking about your responses and write down anything that could aid in your Group. We also encourage you dig deeper, research, look for supporting Scriptures, etc. We are excited for your growth relationally and spiritual. **We recommend the Bible versions of - ESV, NTL, NIV and The Message.

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Series Overview: We're all looking for love...and not just romantic love. We want our core relationships to work well, and they do...well...some of them, some of the time. It's easy for us to love people when they act lovable, but what about the rest of the time? What about when they hurt or fail us? What about the moments when we realize just how different we really are? What do we do then? What's the right thing to do? The healthy thing to do? How does love handle those difficult moments?

//TALK

Ice Breaker - What is your cellphone wallpaper and why did you choose it?

Q1 – Can you remember a time someone hurt you and you wanted nothing more than to get them back? What did you do and did it resolve the feeling in the long-term?

Q2 – The statement was made, “**Everything we do is either escalating or de-escalating a situation**” Would you agree? Can you share a real-life example of this from your own personal experience?

Q3 – Read **1 Corinthians 13:4a** - [Read in different translations] Why do you think Paul begins his list of “love is...” statements with this one? Do you think it was on purpose or just by chance? What is it about “patience” and “kindness” that makes them so difficult to show in our current culture?

Q4 – Consider the idea that “When we're hurt, there's not just a right way to receive it, there's a right way to respond to it.” From your own experience or something you learned in the message, what are “right ways” to respond and what are some “wrong ways” to respond...and why are they right or wrong?

Q5 – Read **Luke 22:47-53**. [Read in different translations] What stands out to you in these verses? What is Jesus trying to teach his disciples in this exchange? Can you think of other moments in Jesus' life when he showed love to others in a similar manner?

Q6 – Talk about this final thought: “**When someone hurts you, what does love require you to do?**”

A checklist of what to do next time you get hurt: Slow down, Consider the context, Absorb the blow, Respond only in ways that are helpful and healing. Which is the hardest for you to do? Work on that this week.

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//GO DEEPER

Additional Scriptures to read and discuss: Read **15:16-17**. What did Jesus want his followers to “DO” and to be characterized by? Why aren't we? What can you do to change that?

//THE POINT

When someone hurts you, what does love require you to do?

//MEMORIZE

1 Corinthians 13:4a - Love is patient, love is kind.

//PRAY

As you share prayer requests, take time to personally make requests known in an honest and safe environment. Encourage everyone to write down requests and to pray during the week. Please pray for our #LoveOthersMonth and the practical ways we are going to love our community this month. Pray that our church takes this opportunity to put their faith into action.