

LOVE HANDLES week 3

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's your best scar story?

Q1 – Can you recount the last argument you had with someone [preferably not in the room with you] that you had very differing opinions on? What came of that argument? Did anyone “switch/change” opinions?

Q2 – The statement was made, “**When I become convinced only one of us can win, we both lose.**” Would you agree? Can you share a real-life example of this from your own personal experience? What does this type of thinking/behavior do to relationships and the greater community?

Q3 – Read **1 Corinthians 13:4b** - [Read in different translations] In your own words, what do you think Paul is getting at with this description of what “love is not”? What is the relationship between jealousy, pride and boasting?

Q4 – Consider the idea that “**Love is celebratory, humble & affirming.**” These ideas are the opposite of what Paul is saying love is not. Would you agree? Why or why not? Why is this approach to love so difficult for so many of us?

Q5 – Read **John 1:35-37, John 3:26-30, Matthew 3:13-15 & Matthew 11:7-11.** [Read in different translations] What stands out to you in these passages? What are your observations about Jesus' relationship with John the Baptist? How easy would it have been for them to show the negative behaviors of “love” [jealousy, pride and boasting]? Why would they support one another and celebrate each other the way they did?

Q6 – Talk about this final thought: “**When someone is different than you, what does love require you to do?**” Brainstorm some practical ways you can still “love others” that are different from you. How would this change our current culture if people could do this in all areas of life?

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//GO DEEPER

Additional Scriptures to read and discuss: Read back through the passages of John and Jesus. What was Jesus showing his disciples through his behavior? Do you think John and Jesus knew they were being observed at all times? How can you apply this to your life?

//THE POINT

When someone is different than you, what does love require you to do?

//MEMORIZE

1 Corinthians 13:4b - Love is not jealous or boastful or proud

//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.