

LOVE HANDLES week 4

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 - If you could live anywhere in the world for just 1 year, where would it be and why?

Q1 – Can you remember a time you have been let down or failed by someone? How did that feel? What was your initial feeling of trusting that person again in the future?

Q2 – Have you ever considered whether or not you have “relational PTSD”? Have you been hurt in the past and it has caused you to not trust other people because of it? If you are comfortable, share that moment and how you have been able to move past it or if you haven't?

Q3 – Read **1 Corinthians 13:7** - [Read in different translations] In your own words, what do you think Paul is trying to convey to the reader? As you read in multiple translations, what words stick out to you the most? Why?

Q4 – The statement was made “**People don't DO better until they believe they can BE better. And love helps them do just that.**” Would you agree or not and why? How do you think we can help other BE better? What are practical things you can do to help make that happen? [Brainstorm as a group some ideas here]

Q5 – Read **Acts 9:1-21**. [Read in different translations if necessary] What stands out to you in these passages? What fear do you think the early church leaders are feeling when Saul walks into the room as a new “converted” follower of The Way? How significant was this moment in Saul's life that from this day forward, everything changed?

Q6 – Talk about this final thought: “**Love doesn't hold someone's past against them & Love offers others the opportunity to become better than they were before**” How can this approach to love change our interactions with people?

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//GO DEEPER

Additional Scriptures to read and discuss: Take some time to read all of 1 Corinthians 13 and Acts 9. Think about how the previous life of Paul would have impacted his writing of chapter 13.

//THE POINT

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

//MEMORIZE

1 Corinthians 13:7 - 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends

//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 have shown love to our community. Pray that our church takes this opportunity to put their faith into action and changes our hearts moving forward.