



February Family Discipleship

We live in a society that throws the word Love around a lot. We love food, coffee and naps. We love a certain band, artist or type of music. We love cold weather, camping, and running. Love is talked about in many aspects without addressing the real meaning of love. Kids can think that loving a certain baseball team is equivalent to loving mom and dad. I am not implying we need to stop saying we love certain things. I am just saying maybe we need to be more specific about the different kinds of love, and what better time to talk about love than February? Over the course of the first 14 days in February we are going to look at what the bible says about love and how we can incorporate these better in our families. We will be breaking down 1 Corinthians 13 verse by verse talking about how we can better display these qualities in ourselves, our families, and to the world.

Daily Reading

- 1) Each day read the entire chapter of 1 Corinthians 13 (it is only 13 verses).
- 2) Each day re-read the specific verse for that day.
 - a) Bonus!!! We will have 1 Corinthians 13 Scripture memory cards available for download on the website! Check them out!
- 3) Read the devotion for that verse
- 4) Answer the questions
- 5) Pray as a family

Activity

- Make an envelope for each person in your house by writing their names on the front of the envelope.
- Get a stack of index cards and a pen
- Set these out where they will be visible for the days of this study.
- Each day write a note on the index card to each member of your family. Write something you love about them, qualities they have that you enjoy, write prayers to them, etc. Put the card in their envelope.
- Enjoy reading what everyone wrote.
- At the end of this study put all the envelopes in a Ziploc baggie with the year on it. So each year you do this as a family you can look back at the previous year to see what everyone wrote.





February Family Discipleship

February 1

Read 1 Corinthians 13

Re-read verse 1

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

Love is the source of all things. Without it we will not be able to accomplish much in our lives. Paul is talking to a group of people in 1 Corinthians 13 who thought they possessed all the best spiritual gifts. They thought they were the most spiritual people, or the most important because of the gifts they possessed. Paul is telling them that without love these gifts are meaningless to them. Without love being the reason they were using their gifts, they are just making a bunch of noise. We want everything we do to be deeply rooted in love. We want the gifts God gives us to be used to love others well, and to share the love of Jesus with everyone we meet. Without love we are just making a bunch of noise, and this is not how God wants us to use the gifts we have been given.

Questions

1. Are your actions and gifts deeply rooted in love?
2. Are you just making a bunch of noise?
3. What are ways you can change the way you show love to others?
4. What are ways we can show love better as a family?

February 2

Read 1 Corinthians 13

Re-read verse 2

2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

Knowledge is a great thing. Learning is super important. Having faith is a wonderful thing. However, Paul tells the Corinthians that without love these things are nothing. Again, Paul is talking to people who were boasting about the spiritual gifts they had. They thought that somehow the gifts themselves were more important than the motivation behind the gifts. Without love the spiritual gifts of God gives us nothing. Faith is nothing without love. You can have understanding, but without love it is nothing. Paul is trying to get these people, and us, to understand that love has to be the reason why

we do what we do. Because without it we are nothing. Our gifts are nothing, our words are nothing, and even our faith is nothing. Love is everything.

Questions

1. What is your motivation behind your actions?
2. What do you put your faith in? Is love the motivation for your faith?
3. What ways can we show that love is the reason why we do what we do?
4. How can we show each other where our love comes from?

February 3

Read 1 Corinthians 13

Re-read verse 3

3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Giving to the poor and being an overall giving person are all good things, but without love we have gained nothing. Giving up your own life doesn't gain you anything without love. You can have the most extreme example of devotion, but if you do not have love, then your example is worth nothing. Actions are good but without love they mean nothing. If God is love, then without God at the center of our actions they are meaningless. Our actions must be for the glory of God and the good of others. If there is a hint of selfishness in our love, then it is not love to begin with. Giving is great, but if you do it to make yourself feel better instead of just out of pure love, you gain nothing.

Questions

1. What is a way you show people you love them?
2. Is there a time when you gave someone something but it was for your own benefit?
3. How can you love without wanting anything in return?

February 4

Read 1 Corinthians 13

Re-read verse 4

4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant

Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. What is your mouth saying about the condition of your heart? Love is not something that is tossed and turned by life's situations. Love is constant patience while journeying with someone through all the things, good and bad. Kindness is also an overflow of our love. It is a fruit of the Spirit, meaning if we have the Holy Spirit living within us, our lives should reflect kindness. People should see the fruit of kindness in our lives if we have the Holy Spirit living within us. Love does not envy, which means it does not seek what others have, and your satisfaction in Jesus does not need material possessions to help with that. Boasting in one's self is thinking highly of yourself, and bragging about how awesome you think you

are. Love is for the betterment of others not of ourselves. It is about sacrifice. The kind of sacrifice that points to Jesus.

Questions

1. Is it hard to be patient? To wait your turn?
2. What does kindness look like to you?
3. Tell me about a time you were envious of someone.
4. What does it mean to be arrogant? What is the opposite of arrogant?
5. Boasting means to think too highly of yourself. If we are to be humble, who should we boast about?

February 5

Read 1 Corinthians 13

Re-read verse 5

5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

Love is selfless. Philippians 2:3 says, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves." Love is wanting things for others more than we want for ourselves. Love is not irritable. Anger should not be the driving force of love. Love forgives. Numbers 14:18 says "The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression." We are to be slow to anger as God is slow to become angry with us. Holding on to your emotions and being resentful and angry will kill the love that resides in your heart. True love cannot exist when anger and resentful emotions are present. When we are resentful it gives the enemy power, and you can not truly love if you are holding onto those emotions.

Questions

1. Have you ever been rude to someone? What would have been a better way to handle that situation?
2. Tell me about a time when you did not get your own way. How did that make you feel?
3. Irritable is a feeling of frustration. When have you been irritated or frustrated with someone? How could you have shown them love in that situation?
4. Resentfulness causes us to dwell on things that someone has done to us. How can being resentful cause us not to love the way Jesus wants us to love?

February 6

Read 1 Corinthians 13

Re-read verse 6

6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.

We live in a world that often rejoices when bad things happen to people. When someone is wronged the world seeks vengeance rather than the truth or love. We must always be seekers of truth. Above all things, truth is what we have to stand on.

Vengeance should never be our reaction when we are wronged. We should always respond in love and truth with the same Christ-like grace that we have been given.

Questions

1. What is wrongdoing?
2. How does rejoicing in the truth show love?
3. When have you been wronged and how could you have shown love better?

February 7

Read 1 Corinthians 13

Re-read verse 7

7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love is not a feeling, but a choice we make everyday when we get up. We choose who we will love and how we will treat those people. Love is more than a feeling you can fall in and out of, it is an action. Bearing all things means we are with someone no matter what. Believing all things means love is trustworthy. Trustworthy means it can be relied on. It means being constantly faithful. Love should be relied on, and constant at all times. True love is dependable. Hope means love transcends this world, because hope only comes from Christ. Without love, hope would not have come. Christ must be the center of our love, because without him true love can not exist. Enduring means that we dig down deep and fight for love when no one else will. Enduring means staying put. Even when you want to throw your hands up and walk away, love does not quit. It endures.

Questions

1. How do you choose to love someone everyday?
2. Tell of a time when you loved someone even when it was hard.
3. Without Jesus love is a very hard thing, what does the Bible say about God and love?

February 8

Read 1 Corinthians 13

Re-read verse 8

8 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

Things of this world are temporary, but love is forever. Love comes from God, which means it will never end because he will never end. Other desires that we search for in this life are meaningless compared to the love we find in Christ. This thought should shape how we view everything else in life. All worldly recognition, fame, popularity, and material possessions are nothing if we don't have love. The things of this world will never fulfill the void in our lives. Only Jesus can fill that void.

Questions

1. What worldly things do we chase after that are temporary?
2. How can we chase after love more effectively?
3. How can we love others better if nothing else in this world matters?

February 9

Read 1 Corinthians 13

Re-read verse 9

9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part,

There are things in this life that we will never be able to understand, which is why being a Christian is all about faith. Not blind faith, but bold faith to believe that the things that happen in this life are for our good even though sometimes they do not make sense. Faith is believing in the things we do not see, and trusting that God's plans are for our good and his glory. Isaiah 55:8 says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord." We are not supposed to understand every single detail of what happens in our lives. Instead, we are to have faith that God is working all things together for our good. We must trust in him, and only in him. On this side of heaven we only know in part. One day everything will make sense when we finally get to see Jesus face to face.

Questions

1. What are ways we can trust God even when it is hard?
2. What is something that is hard to understand that you wish you could ask God now?
3. How do you see God working out all things for your good?
4. Because we know things are partially this should draw us into a deeper dependence on God. How can we be more dependent on God as a family?

February 10

Read 1 Corinthians 13

Re-read verse 10

10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

One day we will see Jesus face to face and all the things that don't make sense will be as clear as day to us. We will find all of our answers in Jesus. All of our doubts will be settled in Jesus. All of our anxieties will melt away at the feet of Jesus. Perfection and completeness are found in Jesus alone. We must live a life that focuses on the eternal things, not the partial things. The partial will pass away and all that will be left are the eternal things. There's a song by Meredith Andrews that beautifully paints a picture of the partial passing, and the perfect coming.

“Our moments are fleeting
Every breath could be our last
And these things that we’re holding
Will only wither like the grass
There’s no end of time with you
No treasure here that compares to you
All of this will disappear
We are strangers here
We are strangers here
We will see you face to face
And all will fade away
Yes, all will fade away”

Questions

1. What do you think it will be like to see Jesus face to face?
2. How can we as a family focus more on the eternal things and not the partial things?
3. What is a partial thing that is distracting you from focusing on eternal things?

February 11

Read 1 Corinthians 13

Re-read verse 11

11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.

Paul is trying to make a comparison here about the difference between a child and a man. Using the metaphor to show that there are times where we do not understand things fully. Meaning that we are constantly seeking to be more mature and to understand things in a better way. When we become mature, which Paul states can only happen when the perfect comes, we leave behind our childish ways. Paul knows that we can not reach perfection this side of heaven, but we should live a life that strives to be more and more like Jesus each day. Love should be the driving force for our seeking maturity and perfection.

Questions

1. What are some of our childish ways?
2. How can we better support each other as we give up our childish ways?

3. How can we better strive to live each day with the love of Jesus as our driving force?

February 12

Read 1 Corinthians 13

Re-read verse 12

12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

Right now we know Jesus because of his Word. The bible gives us a picture of who God and Jesus are. However, there will come a day when we see Jesus face to face. It will not be because of the bible anymore. Our faith will be made sight. We will also fully know God just like we have always been fully known. We will know him in the same way that he has always known us. I don't know about you guys, but this fact alone makes my heart leap for joy. Knowing one day I will see and know my savior just as he has known me overflows my cup with excitement. You are known and loved by God. Satisfaction only comes from seeking Jesus face to face. Nothing on this earth will satisfy you completely. Only Jesus Christ has the ability to satisfy your life.

Questions

1. What does it mean to be fully known by God?
2. What does it mean for your faith to be made sight?
3. How can God's love for us change us to love others better?

February 13

Read 1 Corinthians 13

Re-read verse 13

13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Love ushers us into eternity. Paul knows that at the very core of Christian belief there is love. There is also faith and hope, but love is the fundamental belief of a Christian. Without love, there would be no eternity. Without love, God would have left us to try and figure out how to save ourselves. Thankfully, love became flesh and died for the sins of the world so that we would be able to spend eternity among the very essence of love. God is love. Love is the reason why we do everything we do. Love allows us to spread Jesus everywhere we go. Love calls us to always consider others over ourselves.

Questions

1. Can you imagine what life without love would look like?
2. How can you show love to someone you never have before?
3. Who can we show love to as a family this week?

February 14

Read 1 Corinthians 13 out loud together as a family.

Talk about which of these characteristics of love you need to work on better as an individual and as a family. Think through ways that you can show love to those around you everyday. Talk to each other about what qualities of love you see in you other family members. 1 John 3:16 says, "By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers." Love should be a quality that we display to the world. But there are times when we can not be so loving to the people who live under the same roof as us. We need to be better and loving those who are closest to us. John 13:35 says, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Love and the qualities that it possesses will show the world that we are disciples. Let us use our love to share the Gospel and show the world we are disciples of Jesus.

Happy Valentines Day!

