

FIRST CORINTHIANS

A Loving Community | Week 21 (13:1-13)

1. Catch Up On Life:

This is when we update each other on the day-in and day-out happenings of our lives. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

- Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus working in the last week (shaping you to be more like Himself or working in the lives of those that He's put around you)?
- What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)?

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives, and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

2. Review the Mission:

Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us out as ambassadors of His reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

People:

- Reactive - Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?
- Proactive - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (neighbors, STC partner organizations, or a specific demographic in Columbia)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve, and build relationships with this group?

Plan:

- Are there any rhythms already planned, or an extra rhythm we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?

Pray: Prayer is the fuel of God's mission. Let's pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.

3. Sermon Discussion:

God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, to equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, to show us our sin, and to strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a LifeGroup throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25)

Primary Passage: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Read and Recap: Have someone read **1 Corinthians 13:1-13** and recap the highlight's from this week's sermon. What stood out to you from the sermon and why?

- In the sermon we learned that the passage uses the Greek word "agape" when talking about love. What distinguishes "agape" from the way our culture defines love?

Reread 1 Corinthians 13:1-3.

- In your everyday life, which of your actions seem like they come from love, but are actually being driven by something else?

Reread 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

- Which of the characteristics of love are easiest for you to believe God extends towards you? Which are most difficult for you to believe?
- Which characteristics do you struggle to extend to others? How so?

- What does repentance look like in taking steps towards extending Christ-like love towards people in your life?

Pray that we would believe in God's agape love for us. Pray that above all giftedness, we would pursue love for one another. Pray that love would be the motivation for all that we do as a church family.

4. Engage the Heart:

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)

- Is there any relational weirdness with anyone in your life this week? How can you lovingly restore peace and reconcile with them?
- In what ways do your actions or sin habits reveal a disbelief in the gospel this week? What steps of repentance can you take to believe the gospel?

Pray: James tells us that a community that regularly confesses sin and prays for each other will see a lot of healing. Confess your sins in prayer and pray for each other.