

Life Group Discussion Material - Sunday, December 20th Message

Love Expressed: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Advent Week #4: Love

1. In his introduction, Pastor mentioned some traits about God's love. Those traits were: God is love (1 John 4:8), God loves us (John 3:16), God's love for us will never fail (Romans 8:35-39), and God requires us to love (Matthew 22:35-38). Take some time as a group and look these verses up and discuss them in order to lay a foundation for this discussion.
2. Many people struggle with the idea of God's love because they typically compare God's love to their own, earthly father's love, which is highly flawed even from a good father. How do these verses encourage you or change your mind about God's love for you?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13, keeping in mind the context in which Paul is comparing gifts to love.
4. The application for verses 1-3 was, *shallow love is not really love at all*. Why do you suppose shallow love is not really love at all (look at the text carefully as the answer is given three times)?
5. Do you often find yourself simply "doing tasks" for someone that are not motivated by love but rather duty? How do you find the balance, as duty is a part of the Christian walk?
6. Verses 4-7 give us some characteristics of sincere love. How do these traits compare to those in verses 1-3?
Hint: verses 1-3 contain actions and these contain _____
7. Which of the traits in verses 4-7 do you struggle with the most?
8. Knowing that love is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), how will this change the way that you strive to love, especially in the times that you struggle?