



Love Makes All the Difference

Ice Breaker: Do you have a live tree, an artificial tree or no tree? Explain to your group your rationale.

Please read together: 1 Corinthians 14:1 (ESV), 1 Corinthians 12:31 (NIV), 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NIV)

Discuss:

Why do you think that God's love is at the center of His heart for people? Shouldn't truth be more important?

Does Considering the feelings of others seem important to God?

In English, we only have one word for love, so we love tacos, dogs, school, people and God. In the Greek, there are 4 words for love.

1. Storge – Familial or political love
2. Eros- Passionate love between lovers.
3. Phileo – Brotherly or sisterly love.
4. Agape – The highest form of love. Without conditions. Doesn't change with the circumstances.

Discuss together the concept of using gifts without love. What are some examples you have seen of a gift being misused or without love?

Love Makes All the Difference

Throughout the years, the Church has been divided over gifts. It should have been united over love.

Please read together: 1 Corinthians 13:1 (NIV)

1. Without love, our words push people away.

Discuss:

What do your words do to other people?

How do people feel after you use your words?

Do your words bless people or annoy people?

Do your words push people toward Jesus?

Are you using your words for YOUR good, or for the good of others?

If you were on the receiving end of your words, how would you feel?

If those closest to you spoke to you the way you speak to them, would you feel loved?

2. Without love, our spiritual knowledge and mysteries inflates.

Please read together: 1 Corinthians 13:2 (NIV) and 1 Corinthians 8:1 (NIV)

Discuss:

Think these statements over and discuss them:

> **“So many people elevate their spiritual gifts over the Nature of the one who gave the gift.”**

> **“When using your gift, no one should feel condemned or less than.”**

3. Without love, our faith is dead.

Please read together: 1 Corinthians 13:2 (NIV)

Discuss:

> **“When using your gift, no one should feel condemned or less than.”**

When was a time that you had more faith than they someone else?

How did you handle that situation?

4. Without love, giving is selfish.

Please read together: 1 Corinthians 13:3 (NIV)

Discuss:

What is a way that you or someone you know has given with a selfish motive?

(You can also use examples of kids you know if you don't want to get personal! 😊)

“You can give without loving but you cannot love without giving.”

- Amy Carmichael, Missionary in India

5. Without love, noble sacrifice is **self-serving**.

Please read together: 1 Corinthians 13:3 (NIV) and Colossians 3:14 (ESV)

Discuss:

I think back on ways that I have done service projects and mission work in order to be seen or recognized. Can you relate?

6. What does love look like?

Please read together: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV) and 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NIV)

Story time:

This week, my kids and I were driving and we stopped at a red light next to a car that had been wrecked. The front quarter panel was missing, there was a scary, skull looking mask on the antenna, and the guy driving the car was covered in piercings and tatoos and was smoking. The music from the car was deafening, even with our windows rolled up, so my kids were staring. One of them said, “That guy looks creepy.” I looked over and without hesitation, these words came out. “Yep, but you know what? A lot of times when people look that creepy and have that kind of beat up stuff, what they are really hoping for is for someone to love them. My child responded, “But they are scaring people away.” My heart broke, because they were right, and what that young man probably wanted more than anything in this world was for someone to love him.

Discuss:

In a world that is driven to self-succeed, how do I love?

Where are we choosing to write people off?

The biggest hinderance to joy and fullness in the body of Christ is Unforgiveness.

Who do I need to forgive?

Who do I need to pray for? (A Persecutor? A government official?)

Father,

Please help us to love.

Show us how.

Please give us supernatural power to love.

Please help us to forgive those who have wounded us.

Please give us supernatural power to forgive.

We need you. We cannot do this on our own.

We invite you to change us and use us this week. In the name of Jesus. Amen.