

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"WHAT IS LOVE, REALLY..." FEBRUARY 04 & 05

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Our culture is obsessed with love and is not hesitant to speak boldly about what love is. We fall in and out of love. We say love is all you need. We say love wins. But what does God have to say about love? The Bible uses four ancient Greek words with Hebrew roots to describe love (Eros, Storgi, Phileo, and Agape) and when you put them all together that's when Love Works.

Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc. Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.

1

PRAY

About 2 minutes

Open in prayer. Consider Psalm 100:1-5 as part of the opening prayer.

2

BIG IDEA

A minute to read

Our culture talks a lot about love without ever really talking about what love is. When you pull back the curtain to see how God defines love it changes everything. In the ancient languages the Bible was written they used four distinct words to describe love and it all starts with agape. Typically defined as the "self-sacrificing love" agape is the love that moves us into action and looks out for the well-being of others, no matter the personal cost. Agapé is the love God showed in sending His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins.

3

CONNECT

About 5 minutes

Game! Break into 2 teams. Set a 2 minute timer. List as many songs as you can with the word "love" in the title. Team with the most wins!

What do you notice about our culture's view of love from these titles?



February 5, 2023

Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.
-1 Corinthians 13:13 NLT

Reflect

Read the full passage in your Bible - 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.

What stands out to you from the passage and why?

The culture around us is continually sending messages of what love is and isn't. How does this passage contrast or echo those messages?

How are you doing living this kind of love? Can you identify an area of strength and an area of weakness?



DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?

What might God be inviting you to do?

4

DISCIPLE LIFE DISCUSSION

About 45-50 minutes. Read the Scripture above and discuss the questions there. Additional questions below.

Read the last 2 sentences in the Big Idea section describing Agape love. Then read the "Live It Out" section on the back. Read aloud the 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 in the group replacing "love" with Jesus' name and replacing "it" with "he". Discuss the 2 questions in the "Live It Out" section now.

Read 1 John 4:7-21. What do you learn about God from this passage? What do you learn about people in this passage?

God does not simply have love, he is love. What are the implications of this statement?

Read Luke 6:27-36. As you consider living out this passage, what is difficult for you? How did Jesus live these out on our behalf? (See Romans 5:8)

5 PRAY:

About 5 minutes

The read the Scripture Card Prayer Prompts below.

Pair up in two's and share prayer requests. Pray for your prayer partner aloud now.

THE [DISCIPLE] LIFE

Pray

Invite God to search your heart...to show you what he wants to see related to the last question. Invite him to convict you of sin. Then confess that to him.

Talk to God about your desire, or your lack of desire, to love more like Jesus...to be more like Jesus in the way you love.

Thank God for his outrageous, free, never failing love that he has poured out in Jesus.

Live It Out

Open up your Bible to 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and wherever you see the word love replace it with Jesus. Reflect on how that changes your perspective on what love actually is. Ask God, "What does love require of me this week?" Ask him for courage...and follow..

**Jesus, thank you for inviting me
into this LIFE of following you today!**

6

LIVE IT OUT:

About 10 minutes

Read the "Live It Out" section and invite the group to complete the reading and discuss the questions. Reflect on this throughout the week.