



WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Love Is....

The Character of Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-8a

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

"...love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing...." 1 Corinthians 13:

In today's world we can easily find ourselves falling into the trap of focusing too much on ourselves. We are the only person we can control, and in an effort to quell our fears and anxieties, we tend to indulge in our private selves. The danger of this kind of individual world view is that it causes us to take on many of the very qualities which Paul outlines as what love "is not:"

- Envy
- Boastfulness
- Arrogance
- Rudeness
- Self-Centeredness
- Irritability
- Resentfulness
- Rejoicing in wrongdoing/comparing to others

Which of these characteristics do you tend to gravitate toward the most? What pressures of the modern world tend to make you focus inward?

We have talked about **agape** love as being the purest kind of love, a self-emptying, self-giving love which focuses on others more than ourselves. *How would focusing more outwardly change our priorities and our daily lists?*

We learn how to love through the stories and examples of Christ. *How can we better learn and be reminded through the witness of scripture how to adopt this posture of self-emptying love? What are some disciplines which would help you improve or modify your practice of devoting yourself to scripture?*

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your example of agape love. Help us to learn to love others more than ourselves, and improve our practices which will help us turn more outwardly than inwardly to love the world around us. Help us to have faith that you will never abandon us and to trust you to lead us with love. Amen.

