

Grateful, Week 2

Small Group Discussion Guide, week of Nov. 8th

NOV 8TH SERMON SUMMARY

GRATEFUL IN RELATIONSHIPS (1 Cor. 1: 4-12)

Paul gives thanks for the Corinthians in spite of all their problems, because He trusts a faithful God. We can become grateful in all kinds of relationships, including the difficult ones, because God is working in them, and in us. How do we become more grateful in relationships?

- **See people as God sees them** (1 Cor 1:4-9). We see what God has done, is doing and will do, and who they are in Christ.
- **Contend with our ugly feelings** - deal with the anger, resentment, hurt, and other feelings that get in the way of gratitude. Talk with safe people and receive prayer. Bring the feelings to God and let the Spirit in.
- **God loves us and changes us.** As we receive His everlasting love, the power of the Spirit helps us overcome the ugly feelings, and become grateful people (Jer. 31:3-5, 1 Cor. 13:4-8).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

I. INTRODUCTION: Share briefly about how you have been blessed by someone this week.

II. THINK AND REFLECT.

Read 1 Cor. 12:31 – 13:8 (below):

31 Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

1 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. **5** It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. **7** It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. **8** Love never fails.

But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away ... **12** For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

1. Who are we to love? What relationships is 1 Cor. 13 referring to?

2a. What is the main point of verses 1-3?

b. Paul uses examples in vs. 1-3 that are meaningful to the Corinthians. What did they value?

c. What examples might be more impactful today? Re-write one of the verses for today's values.

d. How does this help make the point more relevant for you?

3a. What is the main point of verses 4-8a, especially as it relates to our "ugly feelings" (i.e., hurt, anger, resentment, etc.)?

b. How do our ugly feelings get in the way of gratitude and love? Give examples.

c. What are some practical ways we can put 1 Cor. 13 into practice? Share some ways we can deal with the ugly feelings.

4a. What's the main point of verses 8b-12? When will we be able to fully love? Why?

b. How does this give you comfort or hope?

III. PERSONAL APPLICATION (Choose 1 of the following if time is limited)

5. What part of 1 Cor. 13 is most challenging for you? Why?

6. Is there an ugly feeling (hurt, anger, resentment, bitterness, etc.) or a specific relationship that you need to contend with?

- Are there safe people that you can talk with? That will pray for you?
- How can you bring it to God and let the Spirit in?

7. What specific challenges do you face in becoming more grateful in relationships? How would you like to grow?