

What Did We Learn?

Pastor Don Brock

Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

As we begin to enjoy getting back together for more in-person connections over these last few weeks (including a socially-distanced picnic at Gateway), Pastor Don in his message this week wants to be sure to remind us of what we've learned through these months of quarantine and separation - which is the importance of investing in loving relationships with the people around us. And if we're in a relationship with God through our decision to follow Jesus, He wants our relationship with Him to be woven into every part of the way we relate to the people around us - whether it's our spouse, our children, our parents, and even the people we work with. So to get started, let everyone in the group share who they would describe as the most loving person they've ever personally known and why...

BIG THOUGHT

God's desire is that each of our relationships is built on a foundation of love that's shown by our real care and concern for that person.

1. Although poets and authors have written volumes about love, nothing can compare with what the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13. Read 1 Cor. 13:1-3. How does Paul sum up "loveless" spiritual acts? Why? And how is this a warning that can help us evaluate our true "spirituality," especially as we make our way through today's culture?
2. Read 1 Cor. 13:4-7. What stands out to you in the list of what love is and is not? Which one of these standards seems to be more natural for you? Which one of these is more difficult? Explain.

3. How do our relationships with others change when we intentionally choose to be patient and kind instead of competitive ("jealous, boastful, or proud" (v. 4))? What about when we choose to not keep a "record of wrongs" (v. 5)? Share with the group about a time during these last few months when you either gave someone graciousness or received it, and tell how it affected your relationship...
4. Now read verses 8-12. Why do you think Paul wants to remind his readers of the temporary nature of all that we tend to use as measures of spirituality? And how can this help us keep our focus on how we are demonstrating real love in our relationships, even when we're in circumstances that are less than ideal?
5. Read verse 13. How can the way we show love (or *not* show love) in our relationships have eternal outcomes? List as many ways as you can think of...

Take it Further

Talk with God and thank Him for the love that He's shown for you through Jesus, and then ask Him for the wisdom and patience to show that same kind of love to the people He's placed in your life.

Daily Verse Readings

Day 1: Ephesians 4:2

Day 2: 1 Peter 4:8

Day 3: Colossians 3:14

Day 4: Romans 13:10

Day 5: 1 John 3:16

Day 6: 1 John 4:7

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:13