



Life of Love Week 1 – Patient Discussion & Reflection Guide

Questions and Prompts

- **What stood out to you from Sunday's service?** How did you sense God at work in you through the songs, the story video, the message, and being together with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- **"I cannot be both jealous and joyful."** How have you seen this to be true?
- Print or **write out 1 John 4:10** and put it somewhere you'll see often this week.
- **If I resent your joy, I don't love you.** What comes to mind when you hear this?
- **Read Acts 9:1-19.** What stands out from Saul/Paul's conversion story?
- "We must learn to regard people less in the light of what they do or omit to do, and more in the light of what they suffer. Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are." – Dietrich Bonhoeffer
 - How does this quote challenge you?
- **Is there anything else from the message you want to explore more deeply this week?**

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Message Main Points & Scripture

- 1 Corinthians 12:31 - "...And I will show you a still more excellent way." (ESV)
- **If I resent your joy, I don't love you.**
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 - Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way.
- **A benevolent disposition of mind that suppresses envy and sees the joy of others as an addition to ours.**
- **when we resent what God celebrates, we oppose God.**
- Acts 9:1-2 - Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers. So he went to the high priest. He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains.
- Acts 9:3-6 - As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?" 5 "Who are you, lord?" Saul asked. And the voice replied, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! 6 Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."
- Acts 9:17-18 - So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 Instantly something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized.
- Acts 9:26 - When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all afraid of him. They did not believe he had truly become a believer!
- **Comparison may be the thief of OUR joy, but we might just be the thief of the joy of OTHERS**
- **I cannot be both jealous and joyful.**
- Acts 9:27 - Then Barnabas brought him to the apostles and told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the way to Damascus and how the Lord had spoken to Saul. He also told them that Saul had preached boldly in the name of Jesus in Damascus.
- **"We must learn to regard people less in the light of what they do or omit to do, and more in the light of what they suffer. Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are."**
- 1 John 4:7-12 - Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God.... This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.