



Life of Love Week 4 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.)
- The Greek word for love used in 1 Corinthians 13 is "Agape: the divine, selfless love which will go to any length to attain the well-being of its object." **Who comes to mind when you hear this?**
- TJ shared that sacrifice and surrender are indicators of love. **Ask yourself some of these questions & write down your honest response.**
 - Do I have terms and conditions that influence how I love others?
 - Where am I tempted to demand my own way?
 - Where in my life am I failing to love those around me by prioritizing my way or my interests?
- Finding life requires us to let go of our life. Jesus embodies this paradox. **Read Matthew 26:36-44 several times slowly.** What do you notice about Jesus?
- **Look over these three invitations to STOP and consider others in love. Write down one practical way you can practice each one.**
 - STOP and align our heart with God's. ("Your will be done.")
 - STOP and notice. ("What would be a blessing to this person?")
 - STOP and surrender. (Slow down and make the choice to love.)
- **Write one of these phrases out and put it somewhere you'll see often this week:**
 - Love does not demand its own way.
 - "Your will be done." Matthew 6:10
- **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

- **Agape**
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 NLT ⁴ Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.
- **Love does not demand its own way.**
- **“God hates selfish pride because it makes it impossible to fulfill His greatest command.”**
- **Love does not demand its own way.**
- **“my way or the highway”**
- **“loving others on our terms.”**
- **Sacrifice and surrender are easier on our terms, but also less loving.**
- Philippians 2:3-4 ESV - “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”
- **Our interests and preferences can fuel self-indulgence and rob us of opportunities to demonstrate love.**
- **Love does not demand its own way.**
- Galatians 6:1-3 NLT - ¹ Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.² Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. ³ If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.
- Matthew 26:36-45 NLT - ³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, “Sit here while I go over there to pray.” ³⁷ He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. ³⁸ He told them, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” ³⁹ He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”
- Matthew 26:38 - “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death.”
- Matthew 26:40 - ⁴⁰ Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Couldn't you watch with me even one hour? ⁴¹ Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!”
- Matthew 26:42 - ⁴² Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, “My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done.” ⁴³ When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn't keep their eyes open. ⁴⁴ So he went to pray a third time, saying the same things again. ⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said, “Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But look—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.
- Matthew 26:39b - “I want your will to be done, not mine”

- **Love does not demand its own way.**
- Matthew 26:42 - "If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done."
- Matthew 16:24-25 NLT - "Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you will try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it."
- **"He whose life pleases only himself will miss eternal life, and he whose life is lived for [Jesus] even to the point of death will find that eternal life awaits him." – Moody Bible Commentary.**
- **Stewardship**
- **Love does not demand its own way.**
- **STOP and align our heart with God's.**
- Matthew 6:10 NIV - "Your will be done."
- **STOP and notice**
- **"what might be a blessing to this person?"**
- **STOP and surrender**
- **Love does not demand its own way.**
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 NLT ¹If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. ³If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.