

"...but the greatest of these is love."

1 Cor 13:13

February 6 – Love – Why Study Love?

February 13 – Love Suffers Long – Love is Patient

February 20 – Love is Kind

February 27 – Love Does Not Envy

March 6 – Love Does Not Parade Itself

March 13 – Love is Not Puffed Up

March 20 – Love Does Not Behave Rudely

March 27 – Love Does Not Seek Its Own

April 3 – Love Is Not Provoked

April 10 – Easter Break

April 17 – Love Thinks No Evil

April 24 – Love Does Not Rejoice in Iniquity

May 1 – Love Rejoices in the Truth

May 8 – Love Bears All Things

May 15 – Love Believes All Things

May 22 – Love Hopes All Things

May 29 – Love Endures All Things

June 5 – Park Picnic

Guided Prayer Time

Whenever you sit down to do this study there will be a time of directed prayer first. There are four categories to address in this time of prayer:

Adoration – This will be a time of telling the Lord how wonderful He is - perhaps quoting something from His Word about Him or some sort of characteristic of your God. You will write down your adoration.

Confession - You will write down something you need to agree with God about concerning your choices and/or thought life that is contrary to what He desires of you. If it is something you would rather not put in writing, feel free to use an abbreviation or code word. Name the sin and bring it before Him.

Thanksgiving – You will thank the Lord for something He has done or given you in your life.

Supplication - This is where you write your requests to the Lord – the needs and desires you have.

This type of structured prayer is intended to cultivate all areas of your prayer life and hopefully bring about growth in one or more areas in other prayer times that you have.

As we spend time speaking to Him and have Him speak to us, we will be rooted and grounded in His love. When we are rooted in His love, the fruit of love will be produced causing those around us to taste and see that He is good.

Week One – Why Study Love?

Adoration: _____

Confession: _____

Thanksgiving: _____

Supplication: _____

6. How might humility of mind (not having everything figured out) help you be more patient with your husband and children? _____

7. Reading 1 Thes 5:14, who does the Lord want us to be patient towards? _____

8. When someone is impatient with you, how does it make you feel? _____

9. What does James 1:4 tell us will happen to us if we allow patience to work its work in us? _____

10. According to Romans 5:3, what produces patience in our lives? _____

11. Why do you think this is so and do you have any examples in your own life that show this truth? _____

Bible Study Notes

8. How might you deal with this before the Lord?

9. In Psalm 73:3, this psalmist found himself envying others as a result of what he saw and what he was thinking in himself. Look at verses 16-17 of this same psalm. What snapped him out of this and how might we do the same thing?_____

10. Comparing ourselves with others is not wise. How could we really rejoice with others without turning everything around to self?_____

11. Take some time to rejoice in prayer over good things happening to other that you aren't experiencing.

Thank you so much for coming to the studies this semester. I hope and pray that as we looked intently into the perfect law of liberty, we were set free to love with His love. I pray that the love we have for our husbands, children, grandchildren and friends will be a tremendous witness of how real and true our loving God is. By this shall all men know that we are His disciples, if we love one another.

Maureen

1. To endure involves staying committed in the midst of many things - things we may not like, uncomfortable situations and things out of our sphere of control or influence. Record your thoughts on the following verses about endurance and perseverance:

2 Thess 1:4 _____

2 Tim 2:3 _____

James 5:10-11 _____

2. What does being committed to another person mean to you? _____

3. What sort of ups and downs should a person be prepared for in an enduring relationship? _____

4. What sort of conflict/weaknesses in a relationship can tempt you to quit on someone? Why? _____

5. What role does patience have in endurance? _____

6. When someone runs a long distance race what sort of pace do they need to set and why? _____

7. How can this be a good example in loving others? _____

Week Five – Love Does Not Parade Itself

Adoration: _____

Confession: _____

Thanksgiving: _____

Supplication: _____

1. When we are walking in love we don't have to make our presence known. When we boast or parade ourselves we are spotlighting who? _____

2. There seems to be a pattern in the attributes of love we have studied. Who is not to be the focus when we are walking in love? _____

3. Look at Psalm 10:3-4. Describe this man and what his priorities and values are. _____

4. In what ways do you see the Lord proclaim His goodness? _____

5. God is love. He is worthy, yet His greatest demonstration of love was to take on a form of a servant and die a criminal's death. Do you remember a time when Jesus paraded His identity to anyone? _____

6. What do the following verses say about how boasting is to be used?

Psalm 34:2 _____

Psalm 44:8 _____

Week Sixteen – Love Endures All Things

Adoration: _____

Confession: _____

Thanksgiving: _____

Supplication: _____

4. Look at Acts 2:25-26. What sort of things did Paul do that we should do in order to have our flesh rest in hope? _____

5. Turn to Romans 8:25. What other attribute of love is linked to hope? _____

7. To parade one's self is a demanding, attention getting attitude. How does our culture promote such attitudes? _____

8. What would you describe as the opposite of parading one's self or boasting? _____

9. How have you, in the past, pushed your presence in any of your relationships and what sort of impact did this have in the situation? _____

10. What kind of triggers do you face that might tempt you to boast or make your presence known by your own efforts? _____

11. Thank the Lord for all He has given you and ask Him to help you decrease so that He might increase.

Week Six – Love Is Not Puffed Up

Adoration: _____

Confession: _____

Thanksgiving: _____

Supplication: _____

1. Anticipating the things we believe creates a great environment in which hope prevails. Look at the following verses on hope and write out a definition of love according to hope for each verse. The first one is done for you.

Psalm 71:14 *If I love someone, I will continually anticipate good things and praise the Lord even before it happens.*

Psalm 130:5 *If I love someone,* _____

Psalm 130:7 *If I love someone,* _____

Lamentations 3:26 *If I love someone,* _____

2. Hope is based on belief. Despair is based on doubt. How does our belief affect our hope?

3. What are you looking forward to in your marriage, parenting, or other close relationships? _____

Week Fifteen – Love Hopes All Things

Adoration: _____

Confession: _____

Thanksgiving: _____

Supplication: _____

1. Arrogance is associated with high-mindedness and not linked to true love in any form or manner. Being puffed up, implies largeness due to nothing but air providing the increase. There is no substance. What do the following verses tell us about arrogance?

Proverbs 16:5 _____

Proverbs 21:10 _____

Proverbs 16:18 _____

2. When we are puffed up, we think we know everything or at least demand to know everything. Read 1 Corinthians 8:1.

What does knowledge seem to produce? _____

What does love do? _____

3. Certain input can contribute to a haughty view of ourselves. Look at Psalm 36:2. Whose opinion of ourselves should we be cautious of and why?

4. We don't want to be contentious and argumentative. This is not being the loving wife, mother or friend the Lord wants us to be. What do these verses say about pride and strife?

Proverbs 13:10 _____

Proverbs 28:25 _____

5. Think back on the last time you found yourself being contentious. What sort of thinking was going on in your mind? What sort of statements were playing out in your head? Record them here.

6. When we look at how things affect us as the

criteria in our responses, we are puffed up. When a child spills something by accident or our husband's choices inconvenience us etc., self wants to step in and react accordingly. How might we take a more humble approach and respond in love when this type of mindset arises? _____

1. Looking at Galatians 5:6 what do we see working together? _____

2. When we love someone we must often believe for them. Read the story in Mark 2:1-5. How do you see faith working through love in this incident?

3. Is there anyone in your life that is having trouble getting to the Lord and you could bring them before Him more consistently? Explain. _____

4. Describe some relationship in your life that you find yourself lacking belief concerning some dimension within it. _____

5. Look at Hebrews 6:9. How is Paul demonstrating a love that believes all things in this verse? _____

6. How might praying and fasting for someone affect our ability to believe for them? _____

7. In order to have a love that believes, what do we learn in Romans 10:17 that would produce a greater belief -defined love in our lives? _____

8. Pray now believing for those with whom you mostly relate.

Week Fourteen – Love Believes All Things

Adoration: _____

Confession: _____

Thanksgiving: _____

Supplication: _____

Week Seven – Love Does Not Behave Rudely

Adoration: _____

Confession: _____

Thanksgiving: _____

Supplication: _____

1. When we are walking in love, our behavior is often a measurement of whether we are doing this. Being rude is the opposite of being considerate. What should we be considering when dealing with another person? _____

2. What sort of behavior do you consider rude in a conversation? _____

3. How do you feel when someone is rude to you? _____

4. What sort of opinion do you think the rude person has of themselves? _____

5. Can you remember the last time you were rude to someone. Describe this time. _____

6. Did you apologize? Explain. _____

7. Sometimes households allow rudeness as a part of the normal climate. Was this your household growing up or is it now? Explain. _____

4. How might you cover or roof over those you are closest with? List their names and what you can do? _____

5. What would be the opposite of covering someone and how might you slip into this? _____

6. When we would seek to protect those around us what sort of risk do we take as their covering? _____

7. How has the Lord shielded you and how has His example encouraged you to do the same? _____

1. Bearing means covering someone and 'roofing' over them. What do the following verses say about shielding or covering another person?

1 Peter 4:8 _____

Prov 17:9 _____

2. Look at the following scriptures and describe how the Lord covers us.

Psalm 91:4 _____

Psalm 33:10 _____

Psalm 119:114 _____

3. What sort of things do people need to be shielded and covered from? _____

8. Certain words express courtesy and consideration when added to a statement. What are some words in our culture that express courtesy and are considered polite? _____

9. Are these words part of your communication on a regular basis with your husband, children and those with whom you deal? How might you include polite words in your day to day interactions with people? _____

10. A definition of rude in this context is 'not becoming'. What sort of behavior is 'not becoming' for a woman of God? _____

Week Eight – Love Does Not Seek Its Own

Adoration: _____

Confession: _____

Thanksgiving: _____

Supplication: _____

Week Thirteen – Love Bears All Things

Adoration: _____

Confession: _____

Thanksgiving: _____

Supplication: _____

1. Truth is measured by the Lord and outside of the realm of feeling. Our culture defines love around feelings. Explain why feelings and truth are not always in agreement. _____

2. Describe a conflict you have had with someone that was not based on truth but rather on feeling.

3. How might we better discern truth in a situation as opposed to how we feel? _____

4. How could you be tempted to see the truth about yourself or a relationship and not rejoice in it?

5. Write out a prayer based on Psalm 43:3. _____

6. How can believing lies about yourself or others disrupt the flow of love between people? _____

7. What sort of lies do you find yourself believing about yourself that hinders the health of your relationships around you? _____

1. We definitely have a recurring common denominator in all of these definitions of love – self. Reviewing what we have learned how does self play out in the following attributes of love:

Love is patient _____

Love is kind _____

Love is not jealous _____

Love does not boast _____

Love is not arrogant _____

Love is not rude _____

2. To seek its own implies a focus and an effort. When we find ourselves focused on self and striving to gain our own interests in a situation we are not walking in love. What do we learn about love through what Jesus said about his own efforts and focus in Mark 10:42-45. _____

3. What would be some expected counsel you might receive from a women's magazine, typical counselor, or talk show host about the role of self in relationships?

4. How does this differ from what our Maker says is real love? _____

5. The Lord deserves all glory and honor and yet His presence in this world is often not discerned by those He has made. What can we learn about what we deserve and how we might present ourselves by His example? _____

6. What do you find yourself fighting for the most concerning self in the following relationships?

As a wife _____

As a mother _____

As a friend/employee _____

7. How might we cease from seeking our own?

Week Twelve - Love Rejoices in the Truth

Adoration: _____

Confession: _____

Thanksgiving: _____

Supplication: _____

Luke 17:3 _____

1 John 5:16 _____

6. What sort of things could you do to make sure that you recognize sin and have the appropriate attitude towards it? _____

Week Nine – Love is Not Provoked

Adoration: _____

Confession: _____

Thanksgiving: _____

Supplication: _____

1. What sort of situations seem to provoke different people to anger?_____

2. Look at Proverbs 14:29. What does the Lord tell us about a person who is not easily provoked?_____

3. Why do you think that this would be the case?

4. Look at James 1:19. What sort of things does the Lord tell us to do in order to prevent being easily angered?_____

5. Why do you think these particular commands are linked with being slow to anger?_____

1. Read Acts 5:1-3. How did this couple rejoice in iniquity?_____

2. What does Romans 12:9 say our attitude towards evil should be?_____

3. Look at Ephesians 5:11. Sometimes we can laugh at entertainment that glorifies sin. How is this rejoicing in sin and compare this with this verse?

4. In our relationships with people we could actually cause each other to sin and not catch each other. How might a woman rejoice in iniquity with the following relationships?

Husband:_____

Children:_____

Co-Worker:_____

Friend:_____

5. What do the following verses say about our relationship with others and sin we encounter or commit?

Proverbs 27:5_____

Week Eleven – Love Does Not Rejoice in Iniquity

Adoration: _____

Confession: _____

Thanksgiving: _____

Supplication: _____

6. Are there certain times of the day that you find yourself more easily bugged than others? Explain.

7. How is it to be around someone who is easily provoked? _____

8. What sort of practical steps could you take to cause you to be slow to anger in situations in which you tend to be provoked? _____

9. Describe the last time you were provoked.

Week Nine – Love Thinks No Evil

Adoration: _____

Confession: _____

Thanksgiving: _____

Supplication: _____

1. Read Proverbs 16:27-28. What does this say about speaking of others? _____

2. In our relationships we have the choice to consider and think on the wrongs people have done. Describe the conflict many go through to get their minds off of these things and on to the things worthy of praise. _____

3. In your closest relationships write out their names and the things that are noble and enjoyable to you:

4. Look at Proverbs 23:7. How is this person thinking evil? _____

5. If you sense yourself meditating on something evil, either thoughts about another person, or committing some sort of sin, what could you do to change this? _____

7. Who do you think wants to influence us to think evil of someone and why? _____
