

life groups

NLC Weekly Sermon Study

Week of September 3, 2017
Sermon: Real Love in an Angry World



Schedule

30 MIN Eat, Meet & Greet

15 MIN Ice Breaker Game: **Connecting Stories.** **Instructions:** This game is all about finding common experiences or themes between people. The goal of the game is to connect mini-stories in an interesting way. Materials required: Pens and Post-it Notes or notecards. Divide into small groups of 6-8 people. Each person must share at least one item that connects to the other mini-stories. The longer the chain of items that can be created, the better. Write down a few words on a post-it note to keep track of each part of the story.

The first player begins by sharing an interesting memory or experience that they have. For example, one player can say: “One time, I accidentally locked myself out of the house. So then I spent the entire day at a coffee shop.” Any other person can tell a related story that has any similar themes or elements to the previous story. For example, the next person can say, “I am a total coffee addict. Every day I drink 3 cups of coffee, and it sometimes prevents me from being able to sleep at night.”

The next player, based upon the previous story shared, can say something related, such as: “I don’t sleep much at night because I play lots of computer games until early morning.” Any person can then add to the story, by saying something like, “I also love computer games.” To help the group remember each part of the story, write a few words on a post-it note for each part of the story chain. The more interesting or funny the story, the better. The group with the longest connected chain of stories wins. This activity is a fun way to get people to share stories, while helping them learn similarities or common interests.

NOTE: Please use the following study in whatever way flows most naturally for your group. If you lead a small group, you may choose to stay together and go straight through the study. If your group is larger—like a House Party or a City Group—you may want a leader to take the group through the main points, then save the questions for small group breakouts. How you use the study is always up to your discretion as a leader.

OPENING PRAYER

45–60 MIN Real Love in an Angry World

ASK PARTICIPANTS TO TAKE TURNS READING 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

How can we show real love in practical ways?

- **Love is patient.**
 - › When you’re struggling with patience towards someone, don’t ask God for more patience; ask Him for more love!
 - › When you have more of God’s presence in you—the Holy Spirit—you are filled with more of His love (Gal. 5:22-23). When you

have more of His love in you, you will be more patient.

- Love is kind.
 - › When you are in trouble, who do you call? Someone who is kind.
 - › We tend to want to correct others, but what they really need is kindness. It's the kindness of God that leads to repentance. (Romans 2:4)

- Love does not envy.

Q1. Have you ever wanted something that belongs to someone else?

- Love does not boast.
 - › Some of you are missing opportunities to be loved and to love, because you are bragging and in love with yourself.

LET ANOTHER PRAISE YOU, AND NOT YOUR OWN MOUTH; A STRANGER AND NOT YOUR OWN LIPS.—PROVERBS 27:2

- Love is not proud.
 - › Proud love is not sincere love.
 - › When you have a scar, it's a sign that you have healed, but an open wound is very sensitive.
 - › Pride is always trying to hide things. It's an open wound—nothing like love.
 - › The people who love well are loved well.

- Love does not dishonor others.

Q2. How can you demonstrate honor towards others in your life in practical ways this week?

- Love is not self-seeking.
 - › Jesus didn't come to be served but to serve.
 - › To live you must die; to be first, you must be last.

- Love is not easily angered.

Q3. Are you easily angered? Why?

- › If you are easily angered, ask God if you have an open wound somewhere. Talk to a friend about it.
- › If you tend towards frustration towards others, it's back to the patience idea. Don't pray for more patience; pray for more of the presence of God in your life! Pray that He fill you with His love!
- Love keeps no record of wrongs.
 - › You reap what you sow. If you go home and rip people apart, they will do the same.

- Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

- › Rejoice in things. Be a celebrating personality.

Q4. What have you celebrated in others lately? Practically speaking, how can you celebrate others and rejoice with them?

- Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Q5. How is protecting, trusting, hoping, and persevering demonstrated in your own life? How can you love others in this way?

- Love never fails.

- › Notice when people complain to you about something they don't like. Chances are they don't feel loved.

Q6. Discuss with your group how you can genuinely, sincerely, appropriately demonstrate love to people in your world who don't experience love.

- And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Q7. How can we overcome hits in our nation, whether it is hate on the street or natural devastation?

Q8. What are practical ways you can demonstrate love to those affected by the Houston flood?

- Love covers a multitude of sins.

Q9. Discuss ways you can "cover" the sins of those in your family, your workplace, your world.

TAKE PRAYER REQUESTS & SPEND TIME PRAYING OVER NEEDS IN YOUR FAMILY, YOUR WORKPLACE, THE GOVERNMENT, YOUR SCHOOLS, HOUSTON, AND THE WORLD AROUND YOU.

ANNOUNCEMENTS