



“Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.” *Matthew 24:12*

Difficult _____ people.

Putting confidence in an **unreliable person** in times of trouble is like chewing with a broken tooth or walking on a lame foot. *Proverbs 25:19*

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love **bears** all things, believes all things, hopes all things, **endures** all things. Love never ends. *1 Corinthians 13:4-8*

Better to live on a corner of the roof than to share a house with a quarrelsome wife. *Proverbs 25:24*

You and I must go to the _____ source _____ of love.

But anyone who does not love does not know God, for **God is love**. *1 John 4:8*

But he said to me, “My **grace** is sufficient for you, for my **power** is made perfect in weakness.” *2 Corinthians 12:9*

Grace is the strength to carry the load.

“Better than the removal of trial and sufferings is the companionship of the Son of God in them, and the assurance of His strength and enabling grace to endure them.” — William Macdonald.”

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: **love**... *Galatians 5:22*

Cross paths in the _____ morning _____.

Cross paths on the _____ weekend _____.

Cross paths with a _____ person _____.

Cross paths _____ any _____ way _____ possible.

What is it like to be on the other end of me?

Love is a commitment to both _____ carry _____ and _____ unload _____.

Have you committed to carry? What do you need to unload?

He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. *1 Peter 2:4*

Group Prep

In preparation for group, read Romans 15:1-9, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and listen to the Weekend Service message, then answer the following discussion questions.

Introduction

We’ve all been there – trying valiantly to reason with an incredibly difficult person. The situation is frustrating, annoying, and even frightening. Most of the time, we have many validated reasons why we keep them at arm’s length, but the apostle Paul had another plan for us. Because of the sacrificial love Jesus showed us on the cross, Paul asks us to bear with those who are difficult to love; to endure them.

Discussion Questions

1. Describe a recent situation in which you had to deal with a difficult person.

Often times, we object to loving difficult people because we “can’t carry the load” they place upon us. What load, weight or negativity do you feel like you are having to carry continually?

2. What does it mean to “bear with” others? After reading Romans 15:1-9, what are the actions Paul is asking Christ-followers to do and why does he ask us to do them? To what degree should we accept others?

We can build the type of endurance needed to love difficult people in our lives if we draw upon the source of love, which is God. As a group, make a list of the many different ways we can cross paths with the source of love.

Of the ways listed, which do you feel would help you develop the endurance necessary to love others when they are difficult to love?

3. Love is not just a commitment to carry the load but also to unload the pieces of you that make you hard to love. If you asked someone close to you, what would they say is hard to love about you? What could you do to begin unloading what makes you difficult to love?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Who is Paul speaking to? If you begin to love in this way, what do you see changing?

Action Step

4. What is one way you will cross paths with the source of love this coming week? How will you carry the load of a difficult person this week, and how will you unload the pieces of you that are hard to love?

My action step is _____.

I will encourage and pray for _____ to follow through, and their action step is _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I’m praying for _____.

Outreach: Groups in Action

Serve at The Refuge: As a group, schedule a Thursday night to support Emmanuel’s local nonprofit partnership, The Refuge. Serving opportunities include preparing a meal, stocking the pantry/clothing, mentoring a client, and encouraging the disheartened. Call 317-889-7338 and ask for Marcie to make an impact in our community.

Feed others in need: Whether it’s a family who fosters children or one who has recently undergone unexpected hardship, Emmanuel has multiple families in need. One way we can support these families is to prepare or purchase a meal for them. You could make a meal or buy a gift card for them to a local restaurant.

For more information, please contact Emmanuel’s Outreach Director, Kerry Carmichael at kcarmichael@eclife.org.