

UNHURRIED

WEEK 2
HARD TO LOVE
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“Hurry is the great enemy to the spiritual life.” — Dallas Willard

Hurry makes it hard to ____ love ____.

“Then a despised **Samaritan** came along, and when he saw the man, he felt **compassion** for him.” *Luke 10:33*

Love requires ____ time ____.

“They saw the severely wounded man as a **distraction** from what they were supposed to do for God. Furthermore, their **schedules** may have been too full to accommodate a wounded person on the way.”
— Alan Fadling

Love is the ____ point ____.

If 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**. *1 Corinthians 13:3*

“Love is the primary **measure** God uses to determine what is valuable and what is worthless.” — Alan Fadling

Hurry and love are ____ opposites ____.

When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God **walking** about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. *Genesis 3:8*

1. Make love the ____ most ____ important ____ thing.

Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the **greatest** of these is love. *1 Corinthians 13:13*

2. Let love interrupt your ____ schedule ____.

“The great thing, if one can, is to stop regarding all the unpleasant things as **interruptions** of one’s ‘own,’ or ‘real’ life. The truth is of course that what one calls the interruptions are precisely one’s **real life**—the life God is sending one day by day.” — C.S. Lewis

“My whole life I have been complaining that my work was constantly interrupted, until I discovered the interruptions were my **work**.”
— Henri Nouwen

Do you want to love well?

Live a life filled with **love**, following the **example** of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a **sacrifice** for us, a pleasing aroma to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

SG | Small Groups

Group Prep

In preparation for group, read 1 Corinthians 13, listen to the weekend service message, then answer the following discussion questions.

Introduction

If you’ve ever found yourself rushing to get something done, you’ve probably fallen victim to prioritizing a product over a person. Dallas Willard warns us that “hurry is the great enemy of the spiritual life.” Why? Because we can easily reduce people to obstacles when we are rushed. Loving people was Jesus’ priority, and if we are to live the abundant life, Jesus commands us to make loving people our primary motive.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever met someone productive yet unloving? Without saying their name, describe the impression this person left on you or others. Jesus asks more from his followers. Read Ephesians 5:2. With your knowledge of the example of Jesus, how did he balance productivity and loving well?

2. Alan Fadling said, “Love is the primary measure God uses to determine what is valuable and what is worthless.” Read Matthew 22:36-40. Why do you think Jesus describes loving God and others as the greatest commandments?

Read 1 Corinthians 16:13-14. How does hurry undermine our ability to make love the primary motive to accomplish God’s purpose in our lives? Identify some of the other motives that can creep into our day-to-day life that cause us to hurry.

3. In 1 Corinthians 13, the Apostle Paul describes love. What most resonated with you from this passage, and why? One way to slow down and love well is to make love the most important thing. In a practical sense, how do we make these characteristics of love the most important thing?

Allowing love to interrupt our schedule helps us prioritize love as our main motive. What steps would you recommend someone take to slow down and prioritize the characteristics of love described by Paul in 1 Corinthians 13? Sometimes we can feel as though our schedule pulls us in multiple directions. How do we discern choosing whom to love well when this happens?

Action Step

Who loses when we focus on the wrong motive for getting something accomplished? “Hurry is the great enemy of the spiritual life.” Do you want to love well? What steps will you take this coming week to slow down and ensure loving well remains your primary motive?

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

Ongoing local impact: Pick up a bag from the Impact collection bin in your lobby. Fill the bag with the requested items, bring it back, and place it in the collection bin. The items collected will make an impact in the lives of others in our community by helping restock Emmanuel’s local nonprofit partnerships,

Support a foster family: There are many foster families at Emmanuel in need of diapers and wipes. Purchase some packages of diapers and wipes and drop them off in the collection bins.