

Difficult people are _____ everywhere _____.

1. _____ Complainers _____
2. _____ Controllers _____
3. _____ Competitors _____
4. _____ Insecures _____
5. _____ Haters _____
6. _____ Self-important _____
7. _____ Victims _____

He threw stones at the king and the king's officers and all the mighty warriors who surrounded him. "Get out of here, you murderer, you scoundrel!" he shouted at David. "The Lord is paying you back for all the bloodshed in Saul's clan. You stole his throne, and now the Lord has given it to your son Absalom. At last you will taste some of your own medicine, for you are a murderer!" "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king?" Abishai son of Zeruiah demanded. "Let me go over and cut off his head!" *2 Samuel 16:6-9*

1. Respond _____ gently _____.

A **gentle** answer **deflects** anger, but **harsh** words make tempers flare. *Proverbs 15:1*

2. Lower your _____ expectations _____.

For everyone looks out for their **own interests**, not those of Jesus Christ. *Philippians 2:21*

3. Set _____ limits _____ and _____ boundaries _____.

A hot-tempered person **must pay** the penalty; **rescue** them, and you will have to do it **again**. *Proverbs 19:19*

4. See _____ God _____ in it.

"My Father is **always working**, and so am I." *John 5:17*

"They could do nothing to you without your permission. So, in the end it is He who tests or blesses us, using them as we have need."

— Francois Fenelon

"No!" the king said. "Who asked your opinion, you sons of Zeruiah! If the Lord has told him to curse me, who are you to stop him?" David then said to Abishai and all his officials, "My son, my own flesh and blood, is trying to kill me... Leave him alone; let him curse, for the **Lord** has told him to."
2 Samuel 16:10-11

For the remainder of the summer, use these One Year New Testament questions to discuss with your small group or answer individually. Discussion questions related to the weekend message will resume this fall.

Devotional Thought

God expects you to use our uniqueness to complement others and the work He is doing through the Church. The Scriptures tells us that God makes each of us with unique gifts and talents. Think of it this way, if you hired a carpenter, a painter, an electrician, and a plumber to work on your home, all of them would use different tools and do different jobs, but in the end, the finished product would be home-improvement. Even though our tools and tasks differ, in the end, others are blessed and lives are changed for the kingdom.

Are you using your gifts for God's work in and through Emmanuel Church? As you read God's Word this week, ask God to guide you and use you for His purposes. Look around you each day for those you can serve and love.

August 20: 1 Corinthians 12:27 – 13:13

In your opinion, what is an unmistakable demonstration of love? Paul lists several spiritual gifts that lose their significance and impact when done without love. Why is love such an important part of using the gifts God has given you? What will you do to help you remember to use your gifts in a loving way?

August 21/22: 1 Corinthians 14:1-40

What kind of preparation would help prepare you for worship each week? How could your worship experience be different if you prepared properly? How could you participate during the weekend services with your unique gifts and talents in a way that strengthens others?

August 23/24: 1 Corinthians 15:1-58

What do you think is important to pass on from one generation to the next? How would you describe, in your own words, the importance of grace and forgiveness in your life? In what one area of your life have you been stubborn about allowing God's grace to work?

August 25: 1 Corinthians 16:1-24

Who has been generous to you over the years? If Paul were writing a letter to you, what would he affirm and what would he challenge? What is your next step in your spiritual journey?

August 26: 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Why do people sometimes blame God for difficult circumstances? How do you normally react to hardship or suffering? What can you do this week to help someone find hope in their suffering?

Looking for opportunities to make an impact this summer?

Here are a few ideas...

- Nursing homes are always looking for families to come in and spend time with their residents.
- Write out thank you notes and drop them off to our police and fire departments.
- Write thank you notes for those currently serving in our military. (Drop these off at the info desk at your campus and we'll mail them for you!)
- Do yardwork or household chores for an elderly couple in need.
- Serve your own family by doing their chores and/or helping them with an extra task.