

60-Day New Testament Journey
How to Never Fail Leaders Tips
February 16/17, 2013

Memorize

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.
– 1 Corinthians 13:13, NIV

Connect With Others (*choose one*)

- 1. What was one of your favorite love songs when you were growing up? What about today?**

Relate this question to Rick's point that, "Down deep, we all are looking for love, but our culture today is very confused about love."

- 2. When in your life have you felt most loved? How did that affect your life?**

Help them to see the connection between when they experience love and how it makes them feel.

Commit to Growth

Read 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13; 1 John 4:19-21

- 1. What are some basic definitions our culture gives us on the topic of love? Do these definitions affect how you live? What does Paul have to say about some of the modern day definitions of love from his day (v.1-3)?**

Love is a feeling, a physical act, and selfish are some of the modern day definitions of love. And these definitions distort our thinking of the true "agape" love that the Bible talks about. In Paul's day, many people boasted of their loving acts, but what Paul says is that if we do these and have not love, we are useless. Like those in Paul's time, we often do these things out of wrong motivations as well. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up!

- 2. In considering the traits of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, in which one of these descriptions are you the strongest? In which one are you the weakest?**

Be specific and have them share their definitions of that trait and why they feel that way.

3. **Read Romans 5:6-11. Think about each characteristic of love and describe how God demonstrated it, based on these verses.**

Recall the characteristics: Patience, kindness, rejoices in the truth, always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. Not envying, not boasting, not proud, not rude, not self-seeking, not easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs, does not delight in evil. Then for example, God demonstrated patience in treating us graciously when we constantly provoked Him as His enemies. Do this with each characteristic.

4. **Read 1 John 4:19-21. John informs us that loving God and loving others are two sides of the same coin. Have you ever considered that loving others may be the most important spiritual discipline you practice? What does this realization mean for you?**

This is the whole point of Rick's message, so help them to digest that love is the thing that ought to mark our character and motivate our commitments.

5. **What is the "hut tub" in your life? What do you love so much, that it's coming between you loving God and loving others?**

This question was asked by Pastor Rick related to his illustration of a friend who didn't join him in the Adventure Church plant because of his own creature comforts.

6. **If you view love with an eternal perspective, how will you invest in "loving others" in accordance with its description in vv. 4-7:**

- a. **To your neighbors and friends?**

Be specific with each sub point. I need to be more patient with that neighbor.

- b. **To fellow-Christians?**

- c. **To your opponents and enemies?**

7. **As a group, make a list of ideas, which might help each other to persevere (or endure) in love, even when others make it difficult.**

Use these ideas as springboards to pray for one another.