



## SDG Discussion Guide

### 1 Corinthians 12:26 - 13:3

July 14, 2019

For Starters:

What are one highlight and one lowlight from your week?

What was the most fulfilling job or task you ever had?

What is one skill you possess that most people don't know about?

Guideline: The following is meant to provide an approach for further interaction with the respective sermon text *and surrounding passage*. Feel free to forward to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find this write up in print on that Sunday.

First, as you can, read aloud the selected passage in your group. If you have time, read it aloud a second time - from a different Bible translation.

Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together and prayed, what points and questions arise? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these points and questions. Explore and see how God may give guidance in the discussion. The following are further questions you may use to guide your interaction with the text.

1. Read verse 26 aloud. How suited are you or not at hurting with a fellow believer who is suffering and rejoicing with a fellow believer who is honored? Which is harder for you and why?
2. How connected in are you to your church body? What could you do to help "the body" function better?
3. How do you (or could you) use your gifts and abilities within the church? What holds you back from using your gifts more fully?
4. What general attitudes toward spiritual gifts dominate in your church: a) Flow from formal ministry leaders only? b) For all believers? c) For the good of others? d) For the first-century church only? e) For believers who have a post-conversion experience? f) The more spiritually mature, the more spiritual gifts?
5. How do these verses make you feel about your place within your church family? About your need for others?
6. Take turns affirming each person in the group with which spiritual gifts and Christlike qualities you have noticed in them.
7. In verses 13:1-3, what activities are useless without love?
8. How does love as described in this chapter compare to love as typically understood or lived in broader secular culture?
9. When in your life have you felt the most loved? How did that love affect your life? Now, how does it (or could it) affect others - through your life?

Spend plenty of time in prayer. Ask God to invade and take over your heart and awaken you once again to his great love for you - a love so great as to give fully of Himself in Jesus Christ on that cross, for you. Pause on that request a while. Then, ask God to remind you how utterly serious that act was - for you. Imagine sacrificing your freedom and well being, all of it, right now, so that someone else could be free and made right before God. That is what Jesus did for you and for all. Pray God would inspire you with His Holy Spirit, that you may now go forth with that same internalized seriousness about His love - that as it was first given for you, now you may joyfully give it to another. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

\*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).