



SDG Discussion Guide

1 Corinthians 13:4

July 21, 2019

For Starters:

What are one highlight and one lowlight from your week?

Where do you consider yourself impatient? What is a trigger for you?

Where in your routine do you most easily relax? How do you like to relax?

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. If you have time, read it aloud a third time - from an even 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 from your group? **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. Following the sermons on July 14 and 21, begin your discussion by each person saying what the word "agape" means to you - in a nutshell.
2. Again, following the sermons, what is your understanding of the kind of patience and kindness the Scripture sets forth? How does that compare or contrast to any other notion of patience or kindness you had?
3. How have you experienced someone loving you by suffering long with you? If so, who? Can you share the story?
4. While suffering long, we are also to be kind. Does this come naturally to you? If not, describe your experience. How can we practice suffering long with someone?
5. Which of the characteristics of love in the verse is most difficult for you and why? How can you be better aware and alter the situation for the better?
6. Share an example where you saw someone of the church love someone well. Share an example where you saw someone try to be loving but it was not. What did you learn?
7. How can your small group love each other closer in the way of the biblical understanding of patience going forward? What is a practical step you can take?
8. Read Romans 5:20. The word describing the magnitude of God's favor or grace in this verse has the same root as the word that describes the magnitude of sin. But with "grace," a prefix is there to make it say "hyper." To say, where sin abounds, grace hyper-abounds. Discuss how this Scriptural concept relates to any challenges or difficulties you are facing as an individual or group. Spend time and consider this concept together - how has it been true in your life? When does grace motivate you to love another with patience?

Spend plenty of time in prayer. Ask God, once again, to invade and take over your heart and awaken you to his great love for you. Pause as long as you can stand it and ponder his great love for you demonstrated by Jesus on that cross. Pray for the patience of God in your important relationships. What person do you want to realize that loving patience within your life? Pray for that person now - that God would help you both in realizing that loving patience. Go forth expectant both to show love... and to be loved. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.