



SDG Discussion Guide

1 Corinthians 13:5

August 4, 2019

For Starters:

What words and/or actions by others encourage you, build you up?

What traits would you say describe your day-to-day interactions with your family, friends, colleagues, and strangers?

Guidelines: 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. How would you re-word this verse to frame it in the positive (Love is...)?
2. How do the behaviors listed in this verse affect relationships?
3. In what ways does this verse influence your understanding of agape love?
4. Which of the behaviors listed in the verse is the hardest for you to avoid?
5. What are some situations in which you have seen these negative traits encouraged and rewarded?
6. What are some ways you have seen people diminished in your culture?
7. How has your faith community been a positive influence for agape love in your life?
8. How would living agape love transform your community?
9. Who are the people in your life whom you can build up?
10. What are some ways in which you can bring agape love to bear to counteract the diminishing aspects of culture in people's lives?

Prayerfully consider tangible ways this week to live out agape love. Ask God to continue working in you as you seek to surrender your whole being to the transforming work of the Spirit.