

The Love Chapter

A week in 1 Corinthians 13 — what real love actually looks like.

7 days · about 8 minutes a day · for the whole family

How to use this

Pick a time you already gather — dinner, or just before bed — and keep it there. The whole thing takes about ten minutes.

1. Read the passage together. On a busy night, just read the memory verse — that counts.
2. Read the short devotion out loud.
3. Talk through the questions. Let everyone answer in their own words; there are no wrong answers.
4. Say the memory verse together, and try to remember it tomorrow.

DAY 1 Love is Essential 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Paul says we could speak beautifully, know everything, have mountain-moving faith, even give away all we own — but without love, it all amounts to nothing. That's a stunning thing to say. It means love isn't one nice quality among many; it's the thing that gives everything else its worth. And this love has a source: God, who is love, and who loved us first.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. Why do you think Paul says even good things are “nothing” without love?
2. Where does real love come from?
3. What's something good that would feel empty if it were done without love?

MEMORY VERSE · 1 CORINTHIANS 13:2

“If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but don't have love, I am nothing.”

DAY 2 Love is Patient 1 Corinthians 13:4; Colossians 3:12

The very first thing Paul says love IS: patient. Patience is love that's willing to wait, to bear with people, to not blow up when we're annoyed. It can be hardest in a family, where we're together all day! But God has been patient with us — slow to anger, full of mercy — and He helps us be patient with each other.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. Why is patience often hardest with the people closest to us?
2. How has God been patient with you?
3. Who could you show more patience to this week?

MEMORY VERSE · 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4

“Love is patient and is kind; love doesn’t envy. Love doesn’t brag, is not proud,”

DAY 3 Love is Kind 1 Corinthians 13:4; Ephesians 4:32

Love is kind. Kindness is love in action — doing the small, good things that make people feel seen and cared for. Paul tells us to “be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” Our kindness flows from the kindness God showed us first at the cross.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What's the difference between being “nice” and being truly kind?
2. How did God show His kindness to us?
3. What's one specific kind thing you could do for someone today?

MEMORY VERSE · EPHESIANS 4:32

“And be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving each other, just as God also in Christ forgave you.”

DAY 4 Love is Not Jealous 1 Corinthians 13:4; Proverbs 14:30

Love does not envy — it isn't jealous. Jealousy looks at what someone else has and grows bitter. But love can be genuinely glad for others. Proverbs says a peaceful heart gives life, while envy rots us from the inside. When we trust that God gives us exactly what we need, we can celebrate others instead of competing with them.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What does jealousy do to us on the inside?
2. Why is it easier to be glad for others when we trust God to provide?
3. Who can you celebrate this week instead of competing with?

MEMORY VERSE · PROVERBS 14:30

“The life of the body is a heart at peace, but envy rots the bones.”

DAY 5 Love Keeps No Record 1 Corinthians 13:5; Ephesians 4:26-27

Love keeps no record of wrongs. It doesn't keep a scorecard of every hurt, ready to bring it up later. That kind of record-keeping poisons relationships. Instead, love forgives and lets go — the way God, for Jesus' sake, doesn't count our sins against us. Paul even says, “don't let the sun go down on your anger.” Deal with it, forgive, move on.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What happens to a relationship when we keep a “record of wrongs”?
2. How does God treat the wrongs we've done, once we're forgiven in Jesus?
3. Is there a “record” you're holding onto that you need to let go of?

MEMORY VERSE · 1 CORINTHIANS 13:5

“doesn't behave itself inappropriately, doesn't seek its own way, is not provoked, takes no account of evil;”

DAY 6 Love Never Fails 1 Corinthians 13:6-8

Paul says love “rejoices with the truth” and “never fails.” Lots of things fail — plans, feelings, even people. But God's love never quits, never gives up, never runs out. And because He loved us like that first, we can love others with a love that keeps going even when it's hard. Real love isn't mainly a feeling; it's a faithful commitment.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What are some things in life that fail or run out? Why is God's love different?
2. How is love more than just a feeling?
3. How has someone shown you a love that didn't give up?

MEMORY VERSE · 1 CORINTHIANS 13:8

“Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will be done away with. Where there are various languages, they will cease. Where there is knowledge, it will be done away with.”

DAY 7 Faith, Hope, and Love 1 Corinthians 13:9-13

Paul ends with three things that last: faith, hope, and love — “and the greatest of these is love.” One day faith will become sight and hope will be fulfilled, but love will go on forever, because God Himself is love. To grow in love is to become more like Him. That's the goal of this whole week — and of a whole life.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. Why might love be called the “greatest” of faith, hope, and love?
2. How does growing in love make us more like God?
3. Looking back at this week, which part of love does your family most want to grow in?

MEMORY VERSE · 1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

“But now faith, hope, and love remain—these three. The greatest of these is love.”

Want this built into your week? Join the waitlist at shprd.us

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