

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

ARE YOU READY? ARE YOU PREPARED AGAINST HUMAN DISASTER

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-8, 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Pastor Darren Carrington, August 30, 2015

Today Pastor Darren concluded the series on being ready with a way to prepare against human disaster. The message began with a reminder of how much Jesus loves us and believes in us. Our broken relationships with one another lead to bitterness, holding on to un-forgiveness, as well as behavior and actions not in alignment with God's plan for us. A disaster preparedness kit with items like extra water, batteries, and emergency supplies prepare us for natural and man-made disasters; this message gives us a relationship disaster kit, God's love.

MEMORY VERSES

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

DISCUSSION STARTERS

1. (Icebreaker for everyone to share) What is the one topic that you have the most knowledge about?

2. Pastor Darren talked about parents loving their kids and bragging about them. One of the ways parents do this is by putting pictures or significant memorabilia on the refrigerator. What significant event or accomplishment or picture of yours would you most enjoy having put up on God's refrigerator?



STUDY QUESTIONS

READ Eph 1:3-8

1. God's love is the best possible love. He chose us to be holy and blameless. Think of all the people who have been loving to us. Who has given you the best love? What did they do that made it special?
2. As Christians, Jesus called us to love everyone, including our enemies (Matt 5:44) who in your life is someone who would be considered an enemy to whom you could be more loving?

READ 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

3. Have you ever said something that as soon as you said it, you wish you could have pulled the words back? What was that like?
4. We are to love out of obedience, whether we feel it or not. Think of someone you are trying to love, but they do not love you back. How can we encourage one another to love 'difficult people' unconditionally?

For these questions, suggest breaking into groups of 2 or 3.

5. In the message, it was emphasized that whatever God is telling us to do is better for us than what someone else is telling us. Share something recent that God is telling you to do or has told you to do that was in conflict with what someone else said you should do.
6. We do many things or are asked and expected to love others. Loving others takes on many forms - greeting strangers, spending time with someone who needs a friend, praying for someone etc. What activity is most uncomfortable or what is God speaking to us to do from 1 Corinthians 13:4-8?
7. Share who is the person that you have had or are having the hardest time to forgive. What made it or what is it that makes it hard to forgive?



PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

1. Pastor Darren brought up negative mind "role playing" - imagining scenarios that if someone says _____, then I will say _____, and the imagined argument will start (it's on!). It is hard to change the habit to become a positive mind role-play. Ask for 2 volunteers to role-play a scenario where one person has been waiting for another who is late. The late person just arrives. See if the two can have a positive, loving experience.

Hint. Avoid these types of responses:

Where were you?

Why didn't you call?

You are always late!

Try these:

I was worried.

I was hoping for a phone call/text.

It is nice to have you here now.

TAKE IT HOME!

* Be loving to the most difficult person you have in your life.

