

BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

The Greatest Way to Live
1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Copy this sheet for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.

Leaders' Responsibilities:

Important: Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a series of sessions needs to have access to the "Introduction" article found at the beginning of each series (Bible Teaching #...). The weekly session "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

1. **The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.

2. **The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)

3. **The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

Prior to this Coming Session:

Gathering Time Leader:

Bible Study Leader:

Worship Time Leader:

Music Sources:

The Love of God, *The Worship Hymnal* #111; CCLI # 18448 Public Domain

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***The Greatest Way to Live* -13-35-11-en**

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How Deep the Father's Love for Us, *The Worship Hymnal* # 101; CCLI # 1558110
Think About His Love, *The Worship Hymnal* # 102; CCLI # 16299
The Wonder of It All, *The Worship Hymnal* # 108; CCLI # 15733

Gathering Time: (Suggested time: 15 minutes)***The Greatest Way to Live*****Focal Text**

1 Corinthians 13:1-7 to be studied in the Bible study time and 13:8-13 to form the basis for the Worship time

Background

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Main Idea

The greatest way to live is to practice God's kind of love.

Questions to Explore

What is love like, and what differences does it make?

Teaching Aim

To guide the church to describe differences the consistent practice of God's kind of love would make in their church, their family, and their lives.

Gathering together:

Sing one or both of the following:

The Love of God, *The Worship Hymnal* #111; CCLI # 18448 Public Domain

How Deep the Father's Love for Us, *The Worship Hymnal* # 101; CCLI # 1558110

First thoughts:

In an earlier study, we examined spiritual gifts. 1 Corinthians 12 closes with these words, **But eagerly desire the greatest gifts.** The rest of the verse may be paraphrased like this, "Before I get to that (discussion about the greater gifts), however, let me tell you about an utterly extraordinary way of doing everything you do as a believers."

And now I will show you the most excellent way is the introduction to the love chapter—1 Corinthians 13. Paul calls love a "way" here, not a gift. It is a part of the fruit the Spirit produces in a believer's life. The words translated love has the connotation of that upon which one places supreme value. It is the opposite of

selfishness and pride. It involves unconditional acceptance of the strengths and weaknesses of the loved one. It is the more excellent way because it always seeks the best interests of others.

This beautiful chapter is considered one of the most eloquent expressions of love in the history of mankind. We will enjoy it and seek to apply it to our own lives this day and in the future.

Closing the Gathering Time:

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won't need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note-taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

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Copy this section for the Bible Study leader.

Note to the Bible Study Leader: Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

Teacher Preparation

The Greatest Way to Live

Focal Text

1 Corinthians 13:1-7 (Bible Study); 13:8-13 (Worship Time)

Background

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Main Idea

The greatest way to live is to practice God's kind of love.

Questions to Explore

What is love like, and what differences does it make?

Teaching Aim

To guide the church to describe differences the consistent practice of God's kind of love would make in their church, their family, and their lives.

Introduction to your personal study:

In verses 1-3, we see that love is essential in the exercise of spiritual gifts. Love makes them valid. Speech (whether known or unknown; understood or not understood) is useless without love. Prophecy (preaching), knowledge, wonder-working faith, benevolence and extreme person sacrifice are useless unless motivated by love.

Verses 2-6 describe the nature of love. The traits listed here were possibly missing from the lives of the Corinthians to whom Paul wrote. In the original language in which the New Testament was written, all of the traits are verbs, not adjectives. For examples, “Love practices patience”. Love is active, not passive. The word “Jesus” could be substituted for love here. It describes the way Jesus related to all people. To be like Jesus is the aim of the Christian life.

Finally, the permanence of love is emphasized in verses 8-11. Gifts will cease when the need for them ceases. The need for love will go on forever. Love is the more excellent way because it expresses God’s very being.

Background:

Please ask for and read the information contained in the “**Introduction**” article found at the beginning of this series (Bible Teaching #....) of Bible Study and Worship sessions. Whoever downloaded this session for you should have that material for you, as well.

Focusing on the Meaning:

1 Corinthians 13: 1-3

These verses refer back to the discussion of spiritual gifts in Chapter 12. Paul indicates that speaking as the most eloquent of speakers or preachers or even speaking as an angel would speak would have no value. In fact, it would be like a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal – an irritating and perhaps constant noise. The best speech on earth, without love, is only a noise.

The Corinthians were familiar with the sound of gongs and cymbals from their use by devotees of Dionysius or Cybele who were worshiped in Corinth. Even the coveted gift of tongues was no better than the uproar of heathen worship if love was absent. (Barclay, Wm. *The Letter to the Corinthians, The Daily Study Bible*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press. 1956, p. 131).

Dionysius, commonly known by his Roman name Bacchus, appears to be a god who has two distinct origins. On the one hand, Dionysus was the god of wine, agriculture and fertility of nature who was also the patron god of the Greek stage. He also represents the features of mystery religions, such as ecstasy, personal delivery from the daily world through physical or spiritual intoxication and initiation into secret rites.

Cybele was the goddess of nature and fertility. Because Cybele presided over mountains and fortresses, her crown was in the form of a city wall. The cult of Cybele was directed by eunuch priests who led the faithful in orgiastic rites accompanied by wild cries and the frenzied music of flutes, drums, and cymbals. Worship of Cybele spread throughout the Roman Empire.

Bronze was the metal of choice in Corinth. It was favored over silver and often equal in value to gold. Bronze vases may have been used as resonators. Obviously, Paul’s references to Dionysius, Cybele, a resounding gong or clanging cymbal created a vivid picture for the Corinthians.

Paul continues his discussion of the importance of love by stating that if one had faith which could move mountains, but did not have love, one would be valueless. Faith, in chapter 12, was a highly valued spiritual gift. Moving mountains paints the picture of dealing with enormous problems. Yet to deal with a huge problem with faith, but to do so without love has no value.

Paul ends the section by saying that even if one sacrificed his/her body to be burned, it would have no value unless the motivation was one of love. In Athens there was a famous monument called "The Indian's Tomb" There a man from India had burned himself in public on a funeral pyre and had caused to be engraved on the monument the boastful inscription: "Zarmano-chegas, an Indian from Bargaosa, according to the traditional customs of the Indians, made himself immortal and lies here" (Barclay, p. 132).

We think, today, of the many terrorists who have died in a bombing which also killed innocent people. Their motivations were varied, but love was not the motivation so their sacrifice was in vain.

On a less drastic note, we may think of Christians who work overtime to the detriment of their health and family relationships. Paul would caution that unless the motivation is one of love, the sacrifice they make is in vain.

1 Corinthians 13: 4-7

Here Paul describes the characteristics of love.

It is patient. Any intimate relationship requires patience. Spouses, parents, children, co-workers, friends all must exercise patience with the eccentricities, shortcomings, passions, and personalities of those close to them. The more one loves the other, the easier it is to have patience. Even small issues call for patience. One member of a couple may always be on time; the other may often be late. One may be neat; the other messy. One may complete tasks quickly; the other may be more methodical. Patience is needed in every one of these situations. Love helps us have patience.

Barclay (p. 133) indicates that the Greek word used for patience refers to patience with people, not with circumstances. It is a word used of God Himself in his relationships with people.

It is kind. Defining kindness may be difficult. We know what kindness is when we experience it. "Kindness expresses the active dimension of love. This unusual word means *kindness which is useful*. Phillips translates this phrase to say that love 'looks for a way of being constructive.'" (Harbour, B. *Bible Book Study Commentary: 1 Corinthians*, October-December 1991, Volume 13, Number 3. Nashville: The Sunday School Board, p. 101).

It does not envy. Envy is a very universal human condition. We may envy possessions, but we may also envy success, opportunities and achievements.

This resonates with J.W. Fowler's understanding of our lives in terms of vocation. He says that in vocation we are called to an excellence that is not based on competition with others. This understanding frees us from anxiety about whether someone else will fulfill our particular destiny before we get there or whether someone else will beat us to that singular achievement that would have justified our lives. This frees us to rejoice in the gifts and graces of others. We are also freed from the sense of having to be all

things to all people. We can do those things that fulfill the calling God has on our life; we can seek a responsible balance in the investment of time and energy and may do so without feeling the pressure of time. Fowler, a Christian developmental psychologist, has expressed many teachings of 1 Corinthians 13 in his description of the Christian vocation (Fowler, J.W. *Becoming Adult, Becoming Christian*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, pp. 103-104).

How good it would be to be free from envy.

It does not boast. This is, of course, related to envy. We boast because we feel that our achievements must be noted in comparison with the achievements of others. Fowler's description fits here as well. We are freed from the anxiety that someone else will beat us to the achievement we feel is most important to us. We may experience the need to boast even among we feel we love the most. Young mothers who are siblings may boast of the advanced achievements of their children. Which child crawls, walks, speaks or reads first becomes a concern. Within family life and certainly within church life, we may boast of achievements at work. We may not do so verbally but ostentatious clothing, cars or vacations proclaim how successful we are. Love does not boast. "Love is kept humble by the consciousness that it can never offer its loved one a gift that is good enough" (Barclay, p. 134).

Love is not proud. Barclay says "Love is not inflated with its own importance" (p. 134). It is pride, of course, which leads to boasting so we may see this as a continuation of that concept. Eugene Peterson in *The Message* translates verses 4-7 as follows:

Love never gives up.

Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

Love doesn't strut,

Doesn't have a swelled head,

Doesn't force itself on others,

Isn't always "me first,

Doesn't fly off the handle.

Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,

Doesn't revel when others grovel,

Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth.

Put up with anything,

***Trust God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps on going to the end.***

Love isn't rude; it is not self-seeking; it is not easily angered. Love "doesn't force itself on others; Isn't always "me first". Rudeness truly is a "me first" attitude. It is expressed in highway rage. One learns not to be rude by example. Parents who insist upon respect for themselves, teachers, older people and those in authority model being polite. Children who learn to say "thank you" and "please" and write notes expressing gratitude for gifts received learn not to be rude. Rudeness is basic to our selfish human nature and we must work on being polite. Love makes it possible for us to put aside our natural rude behaviour in consideration of others.

"There is a graciousness in Christian love which never forgets that courtesy and tact and politeness may possibly be regarded as lesser virtues, but they are lovely things" (Barclay, p 135).

Love does not insist upon its rights. Having rights always implies having responsibilities. Yet many people are only concerned with their rights. Modern day society has made this seeking after rights a virtue. That may be true when seeking for the rights of others; it is often only selfish when seeking rights for one's personal gain.

Love is not easily angered. Henry Drummond lists good temper as one of the characteristics of love and discusses the fact that a bad temper is seen as a very harmless weakness. "We speak of it as a mere infirmity of nature, a family failing, a matter of temperament, not a thing to take into very serious account in estimating a man's character. And yet here, right in the heart of this analysis of love, it finds a place; and the Bible again and again returns to condemn it as one of the most destructive elements in human nature. The peculiarity of ill temper is that it is the vice of the virtuous. It is often the one blot on an otherwise noble character." (Henry Drummond's discussion of love can be found at <http://henrydrummond.wwwhubs.com/greatest.htm> It is worth reading in preparation for teaching this session.)

"Love keeps no record of wrongs" is a correlated idea, but goes beyond a brief irritation or selfish moment. It is the guarding of a grudge. Peterson said, "Doesn't keep score of the sins of others." If we are honest with ourselves, we will probably have to admit to remembering wrongs from our childhood or early in our marriage or work experience. Love expunges those wrongs from our memory; it allows us to turn loose of them. It is basic to forgiveness.

Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. The field of politics seems to lend itself to a delight in finding something to criticize in the opponent. We seem to rejoice when the opposition is discredited. Christians are not immune to this critical

spirit in relationship to those who disagree with us. The Corinthian church must have experienced it for Paul to be addressing this immediately after the teaching on spiritual gifts.

We are aware that these are not completely separate concepts but are facets of the same idea which is a basic selfishness in relationship to others.

Henry Drummond in his classic book, **The Greatest Thing in the World**, first published around 1880 but available in reprints, describes the characteristics of love in this language:

Patience, kindness, generosity, humility, courtesy, unselfishness, good temper, guilelessness, sincerity.

These descriptions may summarize and clarify the concepts we have studied.

Verse 7 summarizes these concepts: Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes; always perseveres.

Love protects the well-being of others. It does not tear it down by envying achievements or delighting in failures. It does not express anger carelessly. It does not hold a grudge. It protects the other person.

It trusts in human relationships. A child learns to trust at a very young age by living in a trust-worthy environment where he or she is loved and nurtured. The ‘big people’ in that environment consistently provide for the needs of the child. That kind of nurturing care needs to be extended to others throughout life. We need to love and be loved.

Love keeps on keeping on. Great stories of love are told where a spouse continues to love when disease has caused the loved one to forget even the spouse’s name. Love keeps on loving.

Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study:

The teaching aim is to guide the church to describe differences the consistent practice of God’s kind of love would make in their church, their family, and their lives. These beautiful descriptions of love in practice should allow for a discussion of practical ways this can impact relationships.

For Personal Reflection:

What have I learned from this study?

What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?

What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?

Bible Study Plan (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

The Greatest Way to Live

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc.

Begin by helping the group locate the Focal Text in their Bibles. Also, share with them the Main Idea to be learned from the Scriptures, and the Questions to be Explored by the group.

Focal Text

1 Corinthians 13:1-7

Background

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Main Idea

The greatest way to live is to practice God's kind of love.

Questions to Explore

What is love like, and what differences does it make?

Teaching Aim

To guide the church to describe differences the consistent practice of God's kind of love would make in their church, their family, and their lives.

Connect with Life:

Ask the group if 1 Corinthians is one of their favourite passages of Scripture. Allow a few minutes for participants to express why it is meaningful to them.

Guide the Study:

Have someone read 1 Corinthians 12:31-13: 1-7.

Comment that chapter 12 has focused on a discussion of spiritual gifts.

Ask: What is the meaning of 1 Corinthians 12:31? (It summarizes the discussion of spiritual gifts indicating that some have greater value; it transitions into the chapter on love indicating that there is a more excellent way).

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***The Greatest Way to Live* –13-35-11-en**

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Comment: Love is not a spiritual gift – it is a “way” of being.

Have someone reread verses 1-3.

Inquire: What was necessary for the Corinthian church to understand about the gift of tongues? (they had no validity if love was not present).

From the **Teacher Preparation** material discuss the nature of the worship of Dionysius and Cybele and the noise associated with that worship.

Ask: Why was this an effective word picture for Paul to use?

Initiate a brief discussion: How important was the gift of prophesy? (See 1 Corinthians 12: 28)

Discuss: How is love expressed in preaching?

Examine verse 2 and mention what other spiritual gifts are mentioned here.

Lead the group to consider ways in which faith could move mountains, but not be motivated by love. (This will be difficult. We have difficulty in knowing what faith which moves mountains looks like. Paul is using powerful word pictures here.)

You may need to question the group: Do you think that Paul is speaking literally at this point or is he more generally referring to doing anything really difficult through faith? (Remind the group that the scripture, itself, does not say what Paul meant.)

Move naturally into a discussion of how people can do good works without love. This concept is much easier to understand. (People can do good works because it brings them public approval. Or, perhaps, they may feel guilty for having more than others.)

Discuss the reality that motivation to do good works may be mixed. We may feel compassion toward the needy or genuinely want to contribute to a good cause, but we also like the public approval that it brings.

Ask: How can we express our love for the needy without desiring public approval?

Consider ways in which people make huge sacrifices, but those sacrifices are not motivated by love. What are the motivations for some of those sacrifices? (Revenge, hope for future reward in paradise, failure to value self)

Have someone read 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7.

Use a white board or large piece of paper to list the characteristics of love. Allow time for discussion of each one. However, there are ten so the leader will need to move the discussion along firmly and swiftly.

It is patient.
It is kind.
It does not envy.
It does not boast.
It is not proud.
It is not rude.
It is not self-seeking.
It is not easily angered.
It keeps no record of wrongs.
It does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth.

(New International Version)

Comment that in the original language of the New Testament, all of the traits are verbs – Love practices patience. Love is active, not passive.

Match the descriptions given in *The Message* with those given in the *New International Version*

Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always "me first,
Doesn't fly off the handle.
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth.
Puts up with anything,

Trust God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,

Match the concepts given by Henry Drummond with those already on the board.

Patience, kindness, generosity, humility, courtesy, unselfishness, good temper, guilelessness, sincerity.

Add additional descriptive terms which the group wants to include.

See the table at the end of the Worship Time to see these descriptive terms coordinated.

Encourage Application:

Provide a few minutes of silent reflection to consider the question: Which of these characteristics of love need to be expressed in my relationships?

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to move away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time. Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

Youth!!! Take Ten

Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

The Greatest Way to Live **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

A youth will lead the following activity and comments. No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.

Use the table given at the end of the Worship Time to consider the traits of love. Give attention to the list taken from *The Message*. Do these words express the truths in a way which youth can more easily understand?

Worship Time (Suggested time: 30 minutes)***The Greatest Way to Live***
1 Corinthians 13:1-13**Beginning the Service:**

Sing **The Wonder of It All**, *The Worship Hymnal* # 108; CCLI # 15733

Offering:**Praying for the World:**

Approximately 4.5 million Turkmen reside in the former Soviet Republic currently known as Turkmenistan. Before the Russians conquered Turkmen lands, the Turkmen were mostly scattered tribes. The country declared independence from the U.S.S.R. in 1991, and its first president worked to create a strong sense of nationalism. During this time and in the midst of great persecution, the church was birthed among the Turkmen. Pray for strength for these believers. Pray that the homechurchonline.com materials in Russian can be used to start new home churches. Before too many years, Russian will not be a language used in Turkmenistan.

Sharing Guide:

This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God's call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.

Love Never Fails
1 Corinthians 13: 8-13

The Bible Study period has considered the characteristics of love. These are powerful and life-changing. Learning to love as Paul described love will be, for most of us, a life-long process. Each time we read or study this passage we should desire to express more of this kind of love in our daily relationships. We should also feel empowered to do just that.

Paul closes the chapter with other great truths.

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Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Paul understood that expressing love in the ways he described in this chapter did not come automatically to the believer.

When we first meet Paul in the New Testament, he is a Jewish persecutor of Christians. He was present at the stoning of Stephen.

His conversion experience on the road to Damascus was amazing and his transformation immediate.

But he had to learn to love just as we have to learn to love. He was passionate and impatient at times; he was discouraged when those he had taught lived in ways which did not conform to what they knew to be true. He was impatient with Peter and those who hesitated to share the gospel with the Gentiles.

He came to understand that many of the things he did best—preach, speak in tongues, have great knowledge and wisdom would someday come to an end. These things are means to an end. They help people come to know Jesus.

But some wonderful day, we will know Jesus and experience his presence and all of these gifts will no longer be necessary. Even faith has done its job—it has brought us salvation. Hope will no longer necessary because we will live forever in the presence of the Lord Himself.

The mirrors of Paul's day were available, but not perfect. In fact, Corinth was famous for its manufacture of mirrors. But the modern mirror as we know it with its more perfect reflection did not emerge until the thirteenth century. The Corinthian mirror was made of highly polished metal, and even at its best it was but an imperfect reflection of the real object. We may laugh at the distortions of our bodies given in amusement park house of mirrors or grimace when we try to see ourselves in a small or poor mirror. We know we are not seeing things as they should be seen (Barclay, pp. 139-140).

Paul indicates that however much we long for God, in life we only see reflection of God. We are left with much that is a mystery or partial knowledge. We see God's reflection in

the beauty of nature. We see His reflection in the Gospel and in the revelation in Jesus Christ.

But mystery and uncertainty and questions remain. It is love that will lead us to a day when we see face to face. We cannot ever reach that day without love, because God is love, and only he who loves can see God. Love never fails.

Jesus said, ***A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*** John 13:34.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Call to Commitment:

Lord, we pray that these wonderful words may remain in our minds and hearts. Help us this week to be more patient and kind. Take away our envy. We give our pride and boastfulness to you and ask that you remove it from our lives. Forgive us when we dishonour the name of Christ by rudeness or anger. May we learn to be unselfish. May we never hang on to unforgiveness or be glad in another's failure. Lord, teach us to love truth. Lord, teach us to love.

Concluding the Service:

Sing one or more of the following:

The Love of God, *The Worship Hymnal* #111; CCLI # 18448 Public Domain
How Deep the Father's Love for Us, *The Worship Hymnal* # 101; CCLI # 1558110
Think About His Love, *The Worship Hymnal* # 102; CCLI # 16299

If appropriate, make copies for each person who will be in the Bible Study Time.

from the *New International Version*

It is patient.
It is kind.
It does not envy.
It does not boast.
It is not proud.
It is not rude.
It is not self-seeking.
It is not easily angered.
It keeps no record of wrongs.
It does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth.

from *The Message*

Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always "me first",
Doesn't fly off the handle.
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth.
Put up with anything,
Trust God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back.

from *The Greatest Thing in the World* by Henry Drummond

Patience,
Kindness,
Generosity,
Humility,
Courtesy,
Unselfishness,
Good Temper,
Guilelessness,
Sincerity.