

LAMP Study

12 LESSONS

1 HOUR
GROUP MEETING
EACH WEEK

*Exploring the
ways to apply
the motivating
power of love in
the workplace.*



LOVE

AS A MANAGEMENT PRACTICE

- 1 Love is Patient**
Learning to implement and practice patience in the workplace.
- 2 Love is Kind**
Kindness is one aspect of living in a way that pleases God.
- 3 Love Does Not Envy**
Cultivate your capabilities, stop comparing and celebrate successes.
- 4 Love is Not Proud**
Pride is love turned inward – God commands us to turn love outward.
- 5 Love is Not Rude**
Christian love chooses appropriate actions and responses to help others.
- 6 Love is Not Self Seeking**
Love for God and others is the mark of a believer.
- 7 Love Keeps No Records of Wrong**
When sinned against, we are injured – when we forgive, we are healed.
- 8 Love Does Not Delight in Evil: Part A**
Building a culture of truth within your organizational structure.
- 9 Love Does Not Delight in Evil: Part B**
Building a culture of truth within your organizational structure.
- 10 Love Always Protects**
Prepare your team to embrace challenges on their path to success.
- 11 Love Always Hopes**
Living with an attitude of hope reflects the way of Christ.
- 12 Love Always Perseveres**
There is a persistence to love – it doesn't quit or give up.

RECAP FROM LAST MEETING (2-3 min)

Spend a few minutes catching everyone up to speed from last week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (1-2 min)

PERSONAL FAITH STORY (3 min)

Ask someone to share a brief faith story about how they see God working in their life this week.

PRAYER (8-10 min)

Split into groups of two or three.

LESSON (30 min)

Spend five minutes on these two questions:

1. What are some kinds of situations that make you feel impatient at work?
2. Who or what kinds of people make you impatient?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 - it is the most beloved chapter in the Bible on love. Often recited at weddings, this chapter serves as a pattern for the ideal marriage. But can we apply it to our workplace lives? Many have not reflected on the larger context and its implications for today. In verse 4 we read, "Love is patient." Three words full of meaning. Patience heads the list of behaviors for demonstrating God's love to others. Have you benefitted from God's patience with our own foolishness?

How do you react when a coworker misses a deadline, mistakes are made, unforeseen obstacles arise, or cost overruns occur? To react with impatience is considered normal and expected, to react with patience is considered abnormal and unexpected. Does today's society and way of living encourage one to be patient?

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Can you think of a time when someone was patient with you, when they could have very easily been impatient? How do you view that person (with high regard or low)?
- How does knowing that God is slow in His anger shape the ways you deal with others?
- If others viewed you as a patient man, how would that be reflected in your work environment?
- Do you think that patience comes naturally, or is it something that is learned as you get older and more mature? How do you learn patience? (James 1:2-5)
- In the Bible, perseverance is often mentioned in the same verse as patience (Matthew 24:13, Romans 5:3-4, Galatians 6:9, Hebrews 10:23, 10:36, James 1:2-4). Why do these two traits go hand in hand? What is the difference between them?

ACTION STEPS (4-5 min)

1. Write out a plan for overcoming impatience and include steps to intentionally strive to implement and practice patience at work?

CLOSING PRAYER (5 min)

RECAP FROM LAST MEETING (2-3 min)

Spend a few minutes catching everyone up to speed from last week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (1-2 min)**PERSONAL FAITH STORY (3 min)**

Ask someone to share a brief faith story about how they see God working in their life this week.

PRAYER (8-10 min)

Split into groups of two or three.

LESSON (30 min)

Spend five minutes on these two questions:

1. In what ways has God been kind to you? (Ephesians 2:7)
2. Several times Paul connects “patience and kindness” as qualities of God. How do they relate to each other? (Colossians 3:12-13)

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. In the first three verses the word love is mentioned three times, in the context of great spiritual actions. Then Paul begins to paint a picture of love’s qualities, and one of the first things he talks about is love is kind. Kindness is also noted as part of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Love is also in the list, revealing the close connection between love and kindness. Living a life of love marked by kindness is one aspect of living in a way that pleases God.

God is not likely to care as much about our earthly contributions to balance sheets and profit and loss statements, as he is about how we cared for the people He brought to us. Bill Walsh, the Hall of Fame football coach, said that “People treated kindly also do a better job. When you concentrate on servicing your people by instructing and encouraging their individual best performances as contributing team members, they will naturally produce the best overall outcome for the enterprise they represent.” To be appropriately kind to your coworkers, you need to get to know them as workplace family. Getting to know them entails personality assessment tools as well as face-to-face dialogue about their passions, ambitions, strengths, and weaknesses.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- If God’s kindness and patience is intended to lead us to repentance (Romans 2:4), how could He use your kindness and patience in the lives of others in the context of the workplace?
- Do you feel that you have an in-depth understanding of those closest to you (including family)? Do you know what motivates and demotivates them? Discuss.
- Which of these people do you think needs better understanding?
- Consider taking a free online version of the Meyer-Briggs personal assessment test. How could this help you to be kind to others? How could this be helpful in understanding the personalities of others?

ACTION STEPS (4-5 min)

1. What steps can you take to help you better understand those who are different from you?
2. Optional: Take this free online personality test: <https://www.16personalities.com/free-personality-test>.

CLOSING PRAYER (5 min)

RECAP FROM LAST MEETING (2-3 min)

Spend a few minutes catching everyone up to speed from last week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (1-2 min)

PERSONAL FAITH STORY (3 min)

Ask someone to share a brief faith story about how they see God working in their life this week.

PRAYER (8-10 min)

Split into groups of two or three.

LESSON (30 min)

Spend five minutes on these two questions:

1. Think of some things that your business/organization offers that could cause you to envy (i.e., titles, parking spots, workspaces, expense accounts, wages, etc.).
2. Do you find it hard to celebrate the success of others? Why or why not?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. In verse 4 it says that love “does not envy”. So, selfish jealousy is at odds with God’s type of love. The Greek word translated “envy” means “to burn with zeal.” Literally, the sense is “to be heated or to boil over with envy, hatred, or anger.” In the context of 1 Corinthians 13, the idea is that love does not focus on personal desires. It is not eager to increase possessions – God’s type of love is selfless, not selfish.

In the business world, we are often tempted to compare ourselves with others. Writing on this topic, author and pastor Chuck Swindoll observed, “When you compare beyond your God-given capabilities, then you can expect frustration, discouragement, mediocrity, and in the long run, defeat. Cultivate your capabilities. Stop comparing. Enjoy being you!”

GROUP DISCUSSION

- There are two sides of envy – either wanting what someone has, or wishing they didn’t have it. Which do you find yourself struggling with more and why?
- When you possess true love, you will not be unhappy about, complain, or wish to diminish or detract from the attainments or advantages of another. Why is this so hard to do sometimes in the workplace?
- If you truly have a love commitment to your coworkers you will not feel threatened, lessened, or weakened by attainments, advantages, or favor from which he/she benefits. How will this affect your relationships in the office?
- If this were the culture of your workplace, how much would people enjoy working there?

ACTION STEPS (4-5 min)

- Make a list of all the things that you have to be grateful for.
- Who can you celebrate this week because of their success? Find a way to celebrate them.
- What specific ways are you going to be generous this week?

CLOSING PRAYER (5 min)

RECAP FROM LAST MEETING (2-3 min)

Spend a few minutes catching everyone up to speed from last week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (1-2 min)**PERSONAL FAITH STORY (3 min)**

Ask someone to share a brief faith story about how they see God working in their life this week.

PRAYER (8-10 min)

Split into groups of two or three.

LESSON (30 min)

Spend five minutes on these two questions:

1. Can you think of a time, or times, when you saw that pride could be a destructive, disunifying force? What were the effects that you observed?
2. Why do we typically find humility to be such an admirable trait?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. As love continues to be described in 1 Corinthians 13, we see that there is a stipulation that “love is not proud” in verse four. The word translated “proud” offers valuable information. It comes from a Greek word meaning to “puff up” or “blow up.” The English idiom “having a big head” communicates the same idea. In the workplace and in life, pride separates, while humility is often unifying. Pride substitutes self-acclaim for God’s acclaim. Pride is love turned inward, whereas God commands us to turn love outward.

We have all been around people who have no problem crediting themselves for their achievements. There are consequences for the proud person who feels superior to others. We see this with people in leadership positions in the Bible. Nebuchadnezzar is a great example of this (Daniel 4:37, 5:20). The consequences of pride will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay. You could end up persecuting the poor (Psalm 10:2). You will not seek after God (Psalm 10:4). You will be shamed (Proverbs 11:2). You will cause contention (Proverbs 13:10). You will be punished (Proverbs 16:5). You will be brought low (Proverbs 29:23).

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Who have you worked with that is a truly humble individual? How is their humility manifested?
- What kind of influence would you have if you lived out Romans 12:3 and 12:16 in your workplace?
- Why is it so hard to focus our attention outward rather than inward, especially at work?
- Are there ways, in your opinion, that pride (not haughtiness) can be a positive motivating influence? Explain your answer.

ACTION STEPS (4-5 min)

1. What specific steps do you need to take to avoid pride in your life (admit wrongs, avoid bragging, acknowledge you are not the best at everything, recognize your faults, be grateful, be considerate in conversation, appreciate others, etc.)?

CLOSING PRAYER (5 min)

RECAP FROM LAST MEETING (2-3 min)

Spend a few minutes catching everyone up to speed from last week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (1-2 min)**PERSONAL FAITH STORY (3 min)**

Ask someone to share a brief faith story about how they see God working in their life this week.

PRAYER (8-10 min)

Split into groups of two or three.

LESSON (30 min)

Spend five minutes on these two questions:

1. What happens when you treat others with the respect and dignity that you would like in return?
2. What happens when you treat someone rudely? What about if they deserved it?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. The description of love in 1 Corinthians 13 includes a list of what love is not. We read that love “is not rude” in verse five. Love, then, has good manners. This could be translated as “does not act inappropriately.” Christian love does not seek to cause problems, and it does not belittle others. Christian love involves choosing appropriate actions and responses that help other people.

Rudeness is finding more and more acceptance in today’s culture. Public behavior and words that were unthinkable a generation ago are now commonplace. People arrive at work with a variety of attitudes and sensitivities, many of which carry the potential to offend or be offended. Sustainably positive work environments are not natural, but always the result of a managed culture. We cannot stimulate, invigorate, or influence people by our rudeness or arrogance (Colossians 3:13-17). When we ignore this vital application of love, we fail in the most important aspect in life besides our relationship in Christ – our relationship with others. Being rude is shown when we promote our will, schedules, and desires over others to the point of causing us to be offensive, callused, and unconcerned. We will fail to see people as important, as our Lord has called. We will also fail to put love into action (Philippians 2:1-5).

GROUP DISCUSSION

- How and why does the way we treat people as Christians reflect on our Lord?
- What are some things that cause us to ignore and be rude to others?
- How do you treat your friends and coworkers when you are stressed or hurt? How can you do a better job at honoring those close to you with more dignity and respect?
- Does your organization have a code of conduct? How is it enforced and reinforced?
- How do you manage appropriate and inappropriate conduct? How does everyone gain a common understanding of expected behaviors and responses?

ACTION STEPS (4-5 min)

1. Think of specific ways that you have been rude in your relationships with people and list what you are going to do to avoid your rude behavior.

CLOSING PRAYER (5 min)

RECAP FROM LAST MEETING (2-3 min)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (1-2 min)

PERSONAL FAITH STORY (3 min)

Ask someone to share a brief faith story about how they see God working in their life this week.

PRAYER (8-10 min)

Split into groups of two or three.

LESSON (30 min)

Spend five minutes on these two questions:

1. Would your co-workers know you as a team player or a lone ranger? Why?
2. How does it feel when you need someone's help, but they act selfishly?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. In verse five the apostle Paul includes some things that love is not. He says that love, "is not self-seeking", which can also be translated as love "does not insist on its own way." Self-focus is the antithesis of love. The opposite of self-seeking is God-seeking. The remedy for selfishness is love. Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second [commandment] is this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:30-31). Love for God and others is the mark of a believer.

In a culture that is overrun with a sense of entitlement and egocentrism, this is a critical lesson to be learned. This is especially true when it comes to one of the most selfish ventures of our times—our career. Self-seeking attitudes result in influencing others to respond in kind by reinforcing their own self-interests, thereby inflicting cross-purposes within the team.

The Bible calls us to serve one another, bear one another's burdens, look out for the interests of others, and so forth (Galatians 5:15, 6:2; Philippians 2:4). In agreement with these concepts, 1 Corinthians 13:5 teaches us that we should not seek our own happiness exclusively or even mainly. Instead, we should seek the welfare of others as more important than our own, even when personal sacrifice and self-denial become necessary.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Do you think acting selfishly could ever be a good thing? Why or why not?
- Have you ever selfishly ignored someone who was in need at work? Why did you do it?
- Someone in the group read Philippians 2:3-4. What does it mean to think of "others as better than yourselves?"
- What are some ways that you could "take an interest in others, too?"

ACTION STEPS (4-5 min)

1. The temptation to be selfish is a natural and common temptation. Though it's common, it's still important that we fight this temptation so it doesn't lead to sin.
2. What are some practical ways this week that you can focus on helping other people?

CLOSING PRAYER (5 min)

RECAP FROM LAST MEETING (2-3 min)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (1-2 min)

PERSONAL FAITH STORY (3 min)

PRAYER (8-10 min)

Split into groups of two or three.

LESSON (30 min)

Spend five minutes on these two questions:

1. Are there unresolved offenses that someone has against you? If so, would you mind sharing?
2. Do you have unresolved offenses that you have against others? If so, what?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. Verse five says that Love “keeps no record of wrongs.” Jesus Christ provided the ultimate example of this type of love. On the cross He paid the price for the sins of the entire world. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). Jesus kept no record of wrongs; rather, He prayed, “Father, forgive them,” from the cross as He died (Luke 23:34). Peter asked him once, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times’” (Matthew 18:21-22).

Forgiving someone who has wronged us is one of the hardest things that we encounter in the workplace because sinning injures, but we need to remember that forgiveness heals. We all sin by omission (should do) or commission (should not do), and all have the potential to offend or be offended. When sinned against, as an alternative to becoming helpless victims, we can proactively decide to forgive rather than wallow in the collateral damage caused by another’s bad behavior. Romans 12:19 commands, “leave the revenge to the Lord.”

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Does forgiving someone in business mean that you ought to continue doing business with them? Why or why not?
- Do you react to hurt or offense in the workplace with an attempt to seek revenge? To wound the person who has wounded you? If so, explain how you feel that getting revenge or wounding your offender would resolve your problem. Would that resolution bring lasting peace, or only add to your pain as a victim?
- Some responses to hurt and offense are not obvious. Instead of an outburst of anger or hope for revenge, there is the quiet, subtle eating away—the “gnawing teeth”—of a bitter heart. Is this your response to those who hurt you? Why can this kind of response be even more deadly than an outburst?
- What characteristics in your life might indicate that you haven’t fully forgiven past hurts, even if you know in your head what you need to do?

ACTION STEPS (4-5 min)

1. What is your specific plan for addressing (and resolving) those records of wrongs that could be having a negative impact on your relationships?

CLOSING PRAYER (5 min)

RECAP FROM LAST MEETING (2-3 min)

Spend a few minutes catching everyone up to speed from last week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (1-2 min)

PERSONAL FAITH STORY (3 min)

Ask someone to share a brief faith story about how they see God working in their life this week.

PRAYER (8-10 min)

Split into groups of two or three.

LESSON (1 of 2) (30 min)

Spend five minutes on these two questions:

1. Why do you think it's so common for people to lie or "stretch the truth"?
2. Are you sometimes tempted to lie or "stretch the truth?" If so, when are you most likely to do this?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. Verses four through six contain a list of several things love "does not" do. The final item in this list is that love "does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth." Love loves the truth! Let's look at how to build a culture of truth within your organizational structure. It is not possible to remove all temptations for evil from among the people of an organization. What may be possible is to build a culture built on truth, so that when employee judgment or behavior runs contrary to the truth, the truth backed by facts can be presented in a self-correcting way. Employees in such an environment will come to accept, trust and deal in the truth. If they can't operate in an environment of truth, honesty, and integrity, they will depart.

As we grow closer to God, we become more like Him. Telling the truth becomes second nature as His light replaces the darkness in our soul. We find ourselves lying less and less.

- How important do you think it is to God for you to be honest?
- Read out loud these verses (Proverbs 12:22; 1 Peter 3:10; Proverbs 15:4; Ephesians 4:25). Which one speaks to you personally? Explain why this verse has special meaning to you.

Peer pressure can be strong. If people around you are lying, you may feel pressured to lie, too. There's a dramatic example of this in the book of Acts. Ananias and Sapphira told everyone they were giving all the money from the sale of their house to God (Acts 5:1-11). But that wasn't true. They had agreed to secretly hold back some of the money for themselves. God struck them dead—not for keeping some of the money, but for lying about it. It's easy to think that "little" lies are harmless.

- Is it okay to tell "little" lies? Why or why not?

ACTION STEPS (4-5 min)

1. Are there any people to whom you should apologize to for lying? If so, make a plan and do it.

CLOSING PRAYER (5 min)

RECAP FROM LAST MEETING (2-3 min)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (1-2 min)

PERSONAL FAITH STORY (3 min)

Ask someone to share a brief faith story about how they see God working in their life this week.

PRAYER (8-10 min)

Split into groups of two or three.

LESSON (2 of 2) (30 min)

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. Review verses four through six. It contains a list of several things love “does not” do. The final item in this list is that love “does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.” Love loves the truth! Let’s look at how to build a culture of truth within your organizational structure.

Four categories generally represent an organization’s reason for being, and each can be supported by the truth, as revealed by facts.

- **Customers**
Truth: No organization survives without satisfied customers.
Facts: Satisfied customers are repeat users. Satisfied customers recommend your products/services. Satisfied customers are loyal; when dissatisfied, they complain to get it right rather than depart.
- **Profitability**
Truth: No organization can survive unless financially sound.
Facts: Financial health is determined by an array of measurable facts. Some more significant than others: cash flow/AR/AP. Every employee needs to know how their organization makes and loses money, then how their job and how they perform it makes and loses money. Armed with the truth, employees can self-adjust to make more and lose less for the organization they serve.
- **Productivity**
Truth: Productivity is the return on invested resources.
Equipment and systems have limited range of returns, whereas human capital and potential is unlimited.
Facts: Overall productivity is calculable: sales per employee, the gross/net profit per employee, and the return on assets/equity/earnings compared to industry averages.
- **Employee Attraction/Retention**
Truth: Successful organizations keep and attract the best people.
Facts: No organization survives without the talent, motivation, and cooperation of its employees. Proper care of employees results in satisfied customers and successful companies.

GROUP DISCUSSION/EXERCISE

- Why are your customers satisfied? Are they actually satisfied? How do you know?
- Why are your employees satisfied? Are they actually satisfied How do you know?
- Why are you financially stable? Are you actually financially stable?
- Why are you more productive than your competitors? Are you really more productive? How do you know?

CLOSING PRAYER (5 min)

RECAP FROM LAST MEETING (2-3 min)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (1-2 min)

PERSONAL FAITH STORY (3 min)

Ask someone to share a brief faith story about how they see God working in their life this week.

PRAYER (8-10 min)

Split into groups of two or three.

LESSON (30 min)

Spend five minutes on these two questions:

1. How has a leader in your work setting demonstrated love in a protective way toward you?
2. How did it impact you personally and professionally?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. God's type of love protects. That is, it watches out for others. It withstands difficulty. And, if there is a shortcoming or fault in the loved one, love has the ability to cover it (see Proverbs 10:12). Love is not based on selfish desire or even mutual benefit; rather, it seeks the benefit of the other person. Love aims to give rather than receive.

Our greatest example of love is God the Father's love for his Son, Jesus Christ. But when God commissioned His Son to save mankind, He did not "protect" Him from personal tests of deprivation, temptation, torment, betrayal, and ultimately, merciless execution. These trials He endured for the greater purpose of the mission: to pay the price for past, present and future sins of mankind, offering the solution and salvation to those who accept Christ's sacrifice for our sins.

The Father entrusted His Son to do the job, sacrifices included. The "protection" Jesus could count on was that God the Father could always be relied on: "I am not alone, for My Father is with Me..." "Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and He will put at my disposal more than 12 legions of angels?" (John 16:32; Matthew 26:53).

To protect people under your authority, one of the most loving things you can do is to prepare them for the challenges that lie ahead. Challenges that are inevitable, but not yet obvious to one less experienced. The best-prepared employees will embrace and overcome obstacles on the path to success, thanks to their obedience and the self-confidence you instilled in them by training. Hebrews 5:8 speaks of Jesus in this way: "Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered."

GROUP DISCUSSION

- How have you demonstrated this practice in your work setting toward those you lead or influence?
- What would be some specific things you could begin doing now to enhance your use of this practice as a management principle?
- What would be some potential obstacles? How could those obstacles be removed?
- What help or accountability do you need from this group? Who in the group might be the best person to hold you accountable?

CLOSING PRAYER (5 min)

RECAP FROM LAST MEETING (2-3 min)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (1-2 min)

PERSONAL FAITH STORY (3 min)

Ask someone to share a brief faith story about how they see God working in their life this week.

PRAYER (8-10 min)

Split into groups of two or three.

LESSON (30 min)

Spend five minutes on these two questions:

1. Where do you put your hope?
2. What are you expecting in your life?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. Love is not just an idea; it is action. The third action listed in 1 Corinthians 13 is that love “always hopes” (NIV) or “hopes all things” (ESV). It’s nice to know that love is hopeful, but what exactly does this mean? Used 32 times in the New Testament, the word hope expresses more than a wish or desire, but a confident belief in the unseen. Hebrews 11:1 says, “Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” Faith, hope, and love are often intimately connected in Scripture.

In Colossians 1:4-5 we find the same combination of faith, hope, and love: “We heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven”. Just as God is called “love” (1 John 4:8), Jesus is called our “hope” (1 Timothy 1:1). Hope not only concerns our belief in Christ but describes who He is to us. The hope within us is Christ Himself. If He lives within us, His hope will be seen in how we treat others. Living with such an attitude reflects the way of Christ, leads to holy living, and brings glory to the heavenly Father (Matthew 5:17).

Since God never gives up hope on us, we cannot give up hope on those with whom we work. Some of us have experienced hope imparted to us by parent, teacher, coach, friend, relative or employer, someone who would not give up on us. Their hopes and beliefs for us were both comforting and motivating. What may be impossible for you is possible for God, and prayer powerfully releases that possibility for you. Hope is confident expectation that buoys our prayer life, our attitude, and our treatment of others.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- What are your hopes for the individuals with whom you work?
- Read Micah 7:7. Is this true for you? Do you watch and wait for the Lord, or do you just run ahead of where He is?
- In Isaiah 40:28-30, we are reminded of how God will not grow weary or tire. Are you putting your hope in things that will grow weary and tired?
- Discuss how you have seen God, in your own life, renew your strength because you have put your hope in Him. Why do you think many people do not have hope?

ACTION STEPS (4-5 min)

1. Share one small “next step” that you feel God is calling you to take in the next seven days.
2. Take action this week to write down ways you see God on display in your life.

CLOSING PRAYER (5 min)

RECAP FROM LAST MEETING (2-3 min)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (1-2 min)

PERSONAL FAITH STORY (3 min)

PRAYER (8-10 min)

Split into groups of two or three.

LESSON (30 min)

Spend five minutes on these two questions:

1. What frustrates you in life?
2. Discuss a time when you had to persevere in your life.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. Verse seven lists four specific actions that love “always” performs. The fourth and final one is that love “always perseveres” (NIV) or “endures all things” (ESV). There is a persistence to love, even in the tough times. Love doesn’t quit or give up. Love lasts. The love spoken of in 1 Corinthians 13 is not a fleeting romance or a fading feeling. Instead, godly love always perseveres. During good times and bad, the love of God’s people endures the challenges of life and remains steadfast.

In one of his most memorable addresses, in 1941 during the early days of World War II, Sir Winston Churchill, speaking at Harrow School, which he attended as a boy, said, “never give in, never, never, never—in nothing, great or small, large or petty...” it was a brief message about perseverance that the British, and the allies, had to fall back on many times during those dark days. Perseverance is also a hallmark for people of faith.

Until our last breath, God never gives up the promise of salvation. Consider the thief on the cross adjoining the one on which Jesus hung. The thief, guilty as charged, in his final hours on earth entered the kingdom of heaven by accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We Christian managers also must persevere in prayer, entreating God on behalf of those with whom we work.

Matthew 11:28-29; 24:13

Galatians 6:9

Hebrews 12:1-3

Romans 5: 1-4; 8:26-39; 15:14-16

Philippians 1:6; 12-14, 25

James 1:4

1 Corinthians 13:7; 15:58

2 Timothy 1:7, 2:3

2 Peter 1: 5-11

GROUP DISCUSSION

- How can I persevere better and stronger even in times of uncertainty and stress?
- How would more perseverance improve your relationships?
- How can perseverance help you set good attainable goals in work and family?
- What issue in your life would improve with more of an attitude of perseverance? What do you need to do to remove apathy or laziness?

ACTION STEPS (4-5 min)

1. Think through the steps you need to take to put perseverance into action in a specific instance, such as, how can I act on God’s call or achieve good goals with tenacity?
2. How can you develop a better initiative, passion, and responsibility to carry on during a difficult time?

CLOSING PRAYER (5 min)