

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 though 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)