

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)