



Series overview

>> Week 1: Love is Enriching

Description: True Christian love is enriching; it enriches all it touches. It's natural to “blend in” to society. Like a chameleon we camouflage ourselves to our surroundings. But, we are new creations and God calls us to stand out and be bold. And what's the ultimate way Christians stand out? The way we love! We live in a world that relays a message about love that is totally opposite of the message God sends about love. We will talk about the spiritual gifts and how all we do amounts to nothing if not done out of love. Our values will be brought in for inspection as we determine our motives behind using our gifts.

Objective: We need a clear vision of the world we live in and what love looks like in it. The goal for this week is for students to leave feeling enriched by what true Christian love is. True Christian love is enriching. They will realize that we are called to stand out and the main way we do that is the way we love. Students will leave this message checking their values and the reasons behind using their “gifts.” They will be challenged to love in ALL they do.

Main Text: I Corinthians 13: 1-3

Thesis: The best way we can be used creatively is when we are motivated by love!

Illustrations: Chameleon

Props:

- Camo Clothing [you could either wear camo clothing or have some there to demonstrate how people like to “blend in”]
- A real chameleon [if possible]

>> Week 2: Love Is Edifying

Description: Our society confuses love and lust. Unlike lust, God's love is directed outward toward others, not inward toward ourselves. True Christian love is edifying. Last week we talked about how Christian love is enriching and as Christians, we should enrich all things we touch. This week we talk about the edifying nature of Christian love. The "most excellent way" is love. Paul wants to take us deeper this week in 1 Corinthians and shows us how love acts. This message tells what love DOES. The more we become like Christ, the more love we will show to others.

Objective: The goal of today's message is for the students to leave knowing what true love DOES; knowing what it looks like. The hope is that they will be "edified" and then challenged to love in this way. The students will be challenged to read and internalize the passage on their own and to use it as the measure by which they do all things. This should spill over through the way they use their spiritual gifts, their relationships, their families, and their communities. They will be given a picture of what this kind of love looks like in their families, relationships, schools, etc. Then they shall know what true love DOES.

Main Text: I Corinthians 13: 4-8a

Thesis: Real love releases the Holy Spirit's power in our lives.

Possible Illustrations:

- Young woman on a date and then her date thinks that just because he bought her dinner, he should get "repaid."

>> **Week 3: Love is Enduring**

Description: Our gifts and abilities do not last forever. Just take a look at things you "used" to be good at. Even our spiritual gifts may change over time. The point is that all things fade away. Everything from our abilities, relationships, crushes, physical health, mental health, money, possessions, EVERYTHING fades away. Paul tells us in 1 Cor. 13 that what is "in part" passes away. All our gifts, all our abilities, everything we place our trust in other than Christ passes away. Wow... That's pretty depressing if those are the things you have always placed your trust in. So, what does last forever?... LOVE. Love lasts forever and is always "enduring." Paul tells us

that faith, hope and love are great, but the greatest is love. Why? Because it is love that cultivates faith and hope.

Objective: This week we are getting past the temporary and focusing on the eternal. We are discovering the third and greatest truth about love: it is “enduring.” This week students will leave with the realization that maturity comes through love. They will be challenged to look at the things they value and not necessarily abandon them but realize that they are all temporary. When all is stripped away, love still remains. So, when God tells us that He loves us, it means that NOTHING will EVER separate us from that love. Students will leave feeling encouraged and will put their highest value on love because it “endures” forever.

Main Text: I Corinthians 13: 8-13

Thesis: Love is enduring and what it produces endures.

Possible Illustrations:

- New toys for Christmas and how they get old fast
- Newest iPhone
- Handheld mirror