

Series: All Things Rise	Reference: 1 Corinthians 13:8-10	Title: Loves Occupation	Date: 4.7.19
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Community Group Questions

Take time to pray through the Six:Eight Prayer Foci for 2019

*If the Holy Spirit gives anyone a specific word for the church
share them with the other Community Group Leaders.*

- 1. FREEDOM:** Pray against spiritual attack on our church body & its members, so that kingdom ministry goes unhindered.
- 2. SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION:** Pray we'd abide in the Presence of Christ, honoring the Word & Spirit of God, being transformed & becoming more effective in witness. That we'd be drawn deeply into worship & prayer in powerful ways this year.
- 3. LEADERSHIP:** Pray for leadership to be filled with the knowledge of the Word & power of the Spirit, operating out of the two as gracious strong servant leaders.
- 4. MINISTRIES:** For all 8 church ministries to run smoothly, having all current & future resources provided for them to thrive (*Kids, Community Groups, Kingdom Opportunities, Stewardship, Impressions, Worship Arts, Prayer, Missions*).
- 5. LOCAL EVANGELISM:** That we'd preach the Word boldly & minister in the power of the Spirit to see people come to faith & publicly declare that through baptism. - for divine openings with neighbors, coworkers, friends & Community Partners.
- 6. CROSS-CULTURAL MISSION:** To be a '*House of Prayer for all Nations*' (Isaiah 56:7), obedient to the Great Commission (Mt 28:18-20), overflowing to our Kinship Network relationships reaching Arab world Muslims, and other mission endeavors of the church.
- 7. GIVING:** Pray that we'd be stretched in faithful giving of our financial resources in order not to be hindered in our kingdom ministry as a church.

“If someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle & respectful way.” (1 Peter 3:15-16)

Study Questions

1. **ICEBREAKER:** One person gives their testimony! Listen to their story quietly, then spend a minute in silent prayer before the Holy Spirit about it. Allow the Spirit to speak into what was said, then share anything of encouragement with that person.
2. Read all of 1 Corinthians 13...focusing on vv4-7 what is the hardest part of living this out for you? Do you struggle with envy, being kind, acting in becoming ways, being easily provoked...etc?
3. Do you believe LOVE NEVER FAILS (God's that is?) How does the cross & resurrection of Jesus illustrate that?
4. What does it mean to be Known by God?
 1. Read Jeremiah 1:4-9, what you be thinking & feeling if you were Jeremiah? Do you feel this way when God calls you to some task? What is the significance of being known by God for Jeremiah?
5. How does the love of God shown to us in Christ bring security to our souls enabling us to step out in faith in the things he would have us do, or in how he would have us live?
6. For those of you who have children, describe to the others what you did to show love to your children. What is it like to have a child? What would you do for that child? How far does your love go for them? What could they do to cut off your love?
 1. Do you believe God loves us with such unending passion?
 2. Why or why not?
 3. Read Ephesians 2:4, what exactly does that mean? How profound is this truth?
7. Read John 13:34, what does this mean to us in our relationships with others? How far did Jesus go? And is this easy to do? What scares you about loving people in this way?
8. Read *1 John 3:14-18*, what does it mean to love in action & Truth?
 1. How is that reflected in Richard John Neuhaus quote, *“Where orthodoxy is optional, orthodoxy will sooner or later be proscribed (prohibited)”*
 2. Why is orthodoxy (right belief - Truth - Moral right & wrong) important in loving people? How is admonishment a loving thing?
 3. And in light of that, what is the significance of Jesus saying, *‘Father forgive them, for they know not what they do’*. (Lk 23:34) while hanging on the cross?
9. How does this all tie together in our being able to forgive others their wrongs toward us, and live powerful lives of love while rooted in the love of God through Christ?
10. What do you hear in Jeremiah 6:16?