

**READ: John 13:34-35, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, & John 3:16**

**OPEN:**

- **What are you excited about for your Connection Group this semester? Briefly share.**
- **Do you own anything with "The Love Verse" on it from 1 Corinthians 13 in your home? If so, what is it?**  
© (*Leaders Note:* For example: home décor, picture frame, large picture w/ Scripture, magnet, etc.)
- **Name two things that you love.**
- **Today how would you say that society defines what love is?**
- **What is love and why does it matter?** (*Leaders Note:* See 1 Corinthians 13:1-13)

**DIG:**

**\* Read: John 13:34-35 (NLT)**

- **In John 13:34, what is the commandment does Jesus gives to the disciples? What example does Christ give them?** (*Leaders Note:* To love one another. The example is Jesus himself, the epitome of love, "just as I have loved you, you should love one another".)
- **In John 13:35, Jesus tells the disciples that the evidence of this love will be demonstrated to the world in what way(s)?** (*Leaders Note:* The evidence to the world will be their love for one another will prove they are truly disciples of Jesus.)
- **Love is defined as "what one does by choice and not by chance, a feeling always seeks the highest good of the other person, no matter what he or she does." This is the Biblical definition of love demonstrated in Christ. Briefly share a time in your life when someone demonstrated Christ-like love in your life?**
- **What are practical ways that you can demonstrate love this Christ-like love to others this week?**  
(*Leaders Note:* Suggest or ask for practical ways to demonstrate love from your group.)

**\* Read: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (NLT)**

- **The Apostle Paul in 1 Cor. 13:1 says, that if he does not have love, what does he sound like? Why does Paul use this word picture?** (*Leaders Note:* Without love he would sound like a noisy gong or clanging cymbal. Unpack this concept w/ your group.)
- **Part of the Biblical definition of love is sacrifice and serving. Why is this important to understand a follower of Jesus? Why doesn't sacrifice and serving work without love?**
- **As a group read 1 Cor. 13:4-7 and discuss the attributes of love and how they are modeled after Christ.** (*Leaders Note:* Discuss why Paul uses patient, kind, etc. & How they are attributes of Christ.)
- **In 1 Cor. 13:13, Paul says that three things will last forever - faith, hope, & love. Why is the love the greatest of the three?**

**REFLECT:**

- **Read 1 Cor. 12: 29, why are all manifestations of the Holy Spirit must be done in the spirit of love?**
- **The four loves are: Eros (erotic love), Storge (family love), Phila (brotherly love), & Agape (God's love, Christ-like love). Discuss how and where love is directed for each one of these examples. How can we apply this to our lives daily?**
- **If love marks us as Christians, how are we doing right now?**
- **Read John 3:16. Discuss how God demonstrates His love for us.**
- **How has the Holy Spirit illuminated or shown you something to apply to your faith this week?**