

## **Series: What the World Needs Now: Holdin' Out For a Hero.**

### **Scripture and Background Information for May 22-29.**

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week, we continue our series, "*What the World Needs Now.*" With this series, we will look at God's design of His Church both to build it up and to have the largest impact on our world as a whole. Today, we will look at **1 Corinthians 13:1-7** and talk about "*What Love Does.*"

#### **Background for 1 Corinthians 13:1-7**

Paul addresses different problems in the Corinthian Church. In chapter 11, he started to address issues related to the Church gatherings. Last week, Paul compared the Church with a body, where every individual part serves the whole body. He talked about how God gave every individual member spiritual gifts, which ought to edify and build up the entire body. In 12:31, Paul introduces our topic for today. He states, there is a better way to serve each other with our gifts.

In chapter 13, Paul shows that the way to serve each other is radical love, which puts others before ourselves. Paul shows that the real sensation of Christian life happens not in the gifts but in love Christians have toward others. He then continues describing the type of love God showed us and which we ought to show others in response. Christ's love is seen in radical love, which pours itself out toward others even if no response is expected.

Questions to engage with the text:

1. In connection to the previous chapter, Paul's comparison of the Church as the body of Christ, how does chapter 13 increase the meaning of the body? How is love the more "excellent way?"
2. Paul introduces the "better way" by comparing three exaggerations with lovelessness (1 Cor 13:1-3). What is the outcome of lovelessness? What is the primary motivator for the things we do as the body of Christ?
3. When you think of the list in v.4-7 take some time to share what are 2-3 that you feel like you are doing well at practicing? Now share 2-3 that you find more difficult.
4. How does love function in our mission as a church in connection with John 13:34-35?

*Note: Paul said that the gifts are given to the common God. As the **Body of Christ**, our mission is to communicate His love to a lost, hopeless world! Christ empowered every member of His body with the Holy Spirit to fulfill His mission through us. That is why love is so important. That is what the world needs now, a loving church that communicates Christ's love through its essence.*

#### **Scriptures for upcoming weeks:**

May 30-June 05

1Cor 14