

Advent

1 Corinthians 14:1-3

Week of December 10, 2023

BELONG

Ask this Ice Breaker Question: Has there ever been a time when you were without something? Maybe you got to the airport and you forgot your passport. Maybe you got to school but forgot your backpack.

BELIEVE

Have someone in your group read aloud: **1 Corinthians 14:1-3**

Ask these questions to prompt group discussion:

1. **Paul is talking about an under resourced life. Has there ever been a time in your life or in the life of a friend where they lacked something essential? What kind of strain did being under resourced put on that kind of life ?**

Leader Context:

- *Answers might include the feelings of stress or anxiety.*
- ***Be sensitive to those members who may be presently experiencing under resourced living.*

2. **There are many ways to live as under resourced. But for Paul, lacking love is the worst kind of existence. Why do you think Paul makes such a strong argument for LOVE in Chapter 13?**

Leader Context:

- *Byron Johnson, a sociologist at Baylor University, wrote a book entitled “More God Less Crime.” In it, he demonstrates that church involvement is the single greatest factor that contributes to beneficial social behavior. In fact, you can take a child who grows up in the most abject poverty with criminal relationships all around him or her – and if you regular bring that child to church, that child will be far more likely to positively impact society. By contrast, a child who grows up in luxury in all areas, but for whom regular church involvement is absent, that child has a far greater likelihood to negatively impact society.*
- *What is Bryon saying here? If you have everything, but don’t have love, you will be a clanging gong or a noisy symbol.*

3. **Have you ever been around “Christians” who quote lots of Bible verses, who publicly display morality, who wear Christian t-shirts, who vote for the right candidate, but for**



whom love is absent?

Leader Context:

- *I think we all know someone like this.*
- *I think we all can be this kind of person too.*

4. *Getting Real:* Is there anything that God might be saying to you about the apparent lack of love in your own life?

BECOME:

5. Groups Challenge: Continue discussion about the ways that your group can use their gifts to serve our church body during the Christmas Season.

- a. The Christmas Festival: December 16-17
- b. Men's Ministry Fire Night: December 10
- c. Serving on Christmas Eve

