

**Small Group Study Guide**



**January 26, 2020**

***Faith in Action***

**OPENING PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, thank you for preserving this letter written by Paul and the message it contains for us. Forgive us Father when the focus of our faith is all about our own holiness at the expense of loving others. Help us discover today how to put our devotion into motion. We pray this in the matchless and powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:**

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 New International Version (NIV)

13 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.



## INTRODUCTION

This is the season of self-improvement. We challenge ourselves to get slimmer, stronger, and smarter. But if you want to become a better person, focus less on yourself and more on doing something to make the world a better place. The challenge is that making the world a better place requires giving up some part of our lives—time, money, or opportunities. It will cost you some life. We don't want to give up some life. We want to preserve our lives. But Jesus said that the only way to live a life of purpose and meaning is to give our lives away.

To make the world a better place, you don't have to quit your job, but you may have to quit doing something. You don't have to become a missionary and leave the country, but you may have to leave your comfort zone. You don't have to give all of your money, but you may have to give a percentage. That's because your devotion to God is authenticated by love for others and love for others will cost you some life.

## QUESTIONS

- 1) Talk about someone you've known or seen that seemed to live with purpose and passion. What are some of the qualities that made that person unique?
- 2) What are some of the costs to our culture of Christians who know a lot about their faith but don't love well?
- 3) During the message, Eric said, "Devotion to God doesn't stop at perfect moral behavior. Devotion to God is authenticated by love for others." Respond to that statement. In what ways is it challenging? In what ways is it comforting?
- 4) Read 1 Corinthians 13:1–3 on page 1. What aspects of faith do you tend to emphasize over love—knowledge, generosity, prayer, emotional connection to God? What draws you to those aspects of faith?
- 5) Think about what breaks your heart. In what ways might addressing that problem require you to step outside of your comfort zone? What can this group do to help you take a step?

## FINAL APPLICATION

What is one thing you can do this week to put your devotion into motion?