

◉ WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Today is the Day, Awesome God, These are the Names of God, Living Hope, New Doxology

◉ WELCOME

Family Picture. Show your latest family photo to the Dgroup then share the story behind it.

◉ WORD

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4–8

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, ⁵ does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, ⁶ does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never fails;

The secret to life is founded on the greatest commandment which according to the Jesus is to love God with all our being, and to love others as ourselves (**Mark 12:30–31**). This tells us that life is all about relationships – first with God and then with other people.

But love is not easy. It takes a lot of hard work. Love is not cheap. It demands a cost. Love is “an unconditional commitment towards an imperfect person to seek their highest good which often requires sacrifice resulting in God’s glory.”

The first relationship that we experience as soon as we are born is with our family. While all of us want a happy and loving family, merely wanting it to be so will not make a happy family. Intention does not equal destination. We must move in the right direction towards our desired destination. We must work out to embrace love by embracing differences, embracing other people’s needs, and embracing imperfections.

EMBRACE DIFFERENCES (1 PETER 3:7)

How do you embrace differences with your spouse or other family members who are with you day in and out? It is easy to be nice to people whom you see once in a while, but the more you are with people, the more the differences will annoy you.

The Bible tells to embrace each other’s differences in an understanding way (**1 Peter 3:7**). Do not quarrel over petty things which you can otherwise manage to live with (or live without) anyway. Do not major on the minor. Major on the major.

EMBRACE OTHER’S NEEDS (1 CORINTHIANS 7:3)

Do you know your family members’ love language? Is it words, time, service, touch or gifts (The Five Love Languages by Gary Chapman)? What are their needs according to their love language?

What are the needs of your spouse? One of the needs of a wife is knowing that her husband prioritizes her above his needs. Husbands ought to love their wives just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her (**Ephesians 5:25**). Love entails sacrifice. The wife, on the other hand, is to do her husband good and not evil so that she can be a prized jewel, that her husband can trust her, and so he will have no lack of gain (**Proverbs 31:10–12**)

Love in family relationships, especially between husband and wife, is designed to never stop but to keep on growing as the years go by. Then, as for the children, the greatest thing a father can do for them is to connect them to God and to love their mother.

Deuteronomy 11:18–19 tells us how we can know the needs of our children and how we can lead them to God:

Model - Children will do in excess what their parents do in moderation. So, before we teach we must be that which we are teaching. We cannot teach what we are not doing ourselves. Modelling requires spending time with our children as a way of life. Our presence is crucial because values are caught, not taught.

Relationships – Josh McDowell said, “Rules without relationship lead to rebellion; Truth without relationships leads to rejection; Discipline without relationships leads to anger.” Do we build relationships at home? Do we affirm our children, communicate with them, and spend time with them?

WORD (CONT'D)

Instruction – Teach children about discipline, identity and inspiration. Discipline teaches them that there are consequences to wrong actions. Their identity in Christ will make them realize that they are more special than fairy tale characters of the world for they are sons and daughters of God (**John 1:12**). Young children's sense of wonder has to be stimulated and awakened for them to know the truth.

Children must also learn to embrace their parents' need to be obeyed and honored: young children are to obey their parents while older children are to honor their parents (**Ephesians 6:2–3**).

EMBRACE IMPERFECTIONS (COLOSSIANS 3:13)

Is there any bitterness running in the family? Are there relationships that had been damaged? In

all these, forgiveness must happen for love to be complete. In our families, we must learn to ask for forgiveness and to forgive others as well, just as the Lord has forgiven us.

How can we love? Where does love come from?

The truth is we will not have enough love to deal with all the difficulties in life until we discover the one true source of love. It is becoming all that God wants us to be and doing all that He wants us to do and hearing Him say "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your master." The "being" of love begins and ends with the God of love. We must first let Him completely fill us and be our Source of love and only then we can truly love. True love is from God and only by God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Love Quotient.** What are the characteristics of love according to **1 Corinthians 13:4–8**? How are these characteristics exemplified in your family?
- 2. Love Defined.** What is your personal definition of love in family relationship? How do you apply love in action?
- 3. Love Embraced.** How can you improve embracing differences, needs and imperfections in your family?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Lifegoals#5: Succeed in Family Relationships

Write down the names of your family members on a sheet of paper. Ask each of them, what is the greatest decision they made in their life. According to their answers, you will have an idea if they have a personal relationship with Jesus or not. Then take the necessary actions to help your family grow your relationship with Jesus and with each other.

Share with your small group how did it go.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

- I. Thanksgiving**
 - Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives
- II. Country and the World**
 - Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
 - Repentance and Salvation
- III. Church**
 - That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
 - Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
 - Ministries and Churches worldwide
- IV. CCF Facilities**
 - School and Training Center
 - Prayer Mountain
- V. Personal Concerns**
 - Deeper intimate relationship with God
 - Righteous living
 - Salvation of family and friends