

LIFE GROUP

Leader Guide

THE GREATEST OF THESE LOVE

FALL 2025 SERMON SERIES



wentzville
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

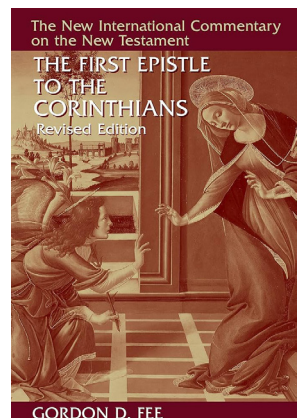
NAME _____

PT 1

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COMMENTARY FOR "THE GREATEST OF THESE" STUDY



LETTER FROM KEITH

Hey WCC Family!

First of all, I want to thank our Life Group Leaders for the incredible role they play in leading and shepherding our groups. Their investment of time, prayer, and energy makes a real difference in people's lives. Y'all Rock!

As we begin our new study, "The Greatest of These," based on 1 Corinthians 13, I'm excited for what God will do in and through our groups. This passage reminds us that faith, knowledge, sacrifice, and giftedness all have value, but without love, they amount to nothing. Paul points us to the heart of the Christian life—love that reflects Christ Himself. As a church, we've been hitting on the theme of "Go Love" all year, and my prayer is that this study will continue to foster a heart for loving others in Jesus' Name!

As you spend time studying together, remember:

- Keep it simple. Don't feel pressure to have all the answers, but rather, how can I grow in my love for others and actually live this out?
- Focus on transformation, not just information. Let God's Word shape hearts, not just fill minds.
- Pray regularly for each other and how we love and practice the Greatest of These!

Thank you again for caring and loving one another. I believe God will use this series to deepen our understanding of His love and to grow us into a church marked by love above all else.

Grateful for you,
Keith Comp
Senior Minister

SEPT 7 | WEEK 1 | IF YOU DON'T HAVE LOVE

[1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-3]

CONNECT QUESTIONS.

1. First Time Groups: Share your name, where you live, and how you got introduced to Wentzville Christian Church.
2. Go around your group and each share about something you did this summer that you loved.
3. First Time Groups: Why did you join a life group? What do you hope to get out of your life group experience?
Existing Groups: What is it about this group that made you want to come back?
As you listen to the answers to these questions, record the answers below in the blank space provided. List the person's name next to their answer.

NAME:

WHY:

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Tonight, Alex talked about how the theme for our fall life group series is love toward one another. Without love, any spiritual gift or act done in God's name is meaningless. Read Colossians 3:12-14. How do you see similar ideas expressed in these three verses in Colossians?
2. In Colossians 3:12-14, Paul identifies compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another, and forgiveness as traits of those who are in Christ. How does love tie into each of these traits?
3. Have each person in your group pick one of the traits listed above in Colossians 3:12-14 and then discuss how that trait can be applied in your life group this fall.
4. Our prayer is that Wentzville Christian Church would be a place where people feel loved. To that end, we have a challenge for you. We encourage you to engage the people you sit near in service on Sundays. Through this series, we will discuss what that engagement looks like. This week, your challenge is to begin praying for the people who come to Wentzville Christian Church. Pray that the people who come through our doors feel loved by God and the community. Please see pages 14-15.
5. Gather prayer requests as a group and then close in prayer.

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.

MISSION OF THE WEEK: LOVEtheLOU

LOVEtheLOU is a community development initiative that connects resources to the needs of St. Louis. During the constant process of growth and development, they strive to see St. Louis restored through transforming actions. LTL is proud of the progress in St. Louis and are excited about what will continue to happen as they grow and develop. www.lovetheLou.org

CONNECT QUESTION

1. What's the longest you've ever waited in line—and was it worth it?
2. Would you consider yourself a patient person? Why or why not?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. This week, Keith taught on 1 Corinthians 13:4a in which Paul writes, “Love is patient.” This fall, we will be working slowly through 1 Corinthians 13. This chapter is a part of a letter that Paul wrote to the church in Corinth. Today, we will examine Paul's experience when he lived in the city of Corinth. As a group, let's read Acts 18:1-5.
 - a. Commentary from Commentaries: “Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, far longer than any other church to date and only to be surpassed by his three years in Ephesus (Acts 19). This may mark a transition in Paul's mission strategy in that he stays for much longer.” -Mark Moore
2. How is Paul having to exercise patience within these five verses?
 - a. Verse 4 states that on every Sabbath, Paul would reason with Jews and Greeks in the synagogue. These groups didn't automatically believe the Gospel. It was something Paul had to work toward every week. He had to be patient with God's timing.
3. The Dictionary defines patience as “The capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset.” Read Acts 18:6, 12, and 13. In what ways is Paul experiencing delay, trouble, and suffering in Corinth?
4. Our patience gets tested when we experience delay, trouble, and suffering. Share a moment in your life when your patience was tested. What was the delay, trouble, or suffering you were experiencing?

5. **Amid the threats, opposition, trials, and abuse, Paul might have been tempted to walk away from the city of Corinth. He continued to exercise patience and stay. We learn why in Acts 18:9-11. Read these verses and discuss what aspects of God's speech might have helped Paul with his patience.**
 - a. Fear may have been growing in Paul's heart as the intensity of the threats increased. God was able to speak to that fear by reassuring Paul, "For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you." Paul may have been dealing with doubt about his work and the lack of fruit with the Jewish community. God reassured Paul in this vision, "I have many people in this city." It was after this vision that Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half. This would be his third-longest ministry, only surpassed by his work in Ephesus (three years) and Rome (two years).
6. **Consider a moment that is currently testing your patience. How can God's presence and protection grow your patience in that trial?**
7. **Because Paul patiently stayed in the city of Corinth, verse 7 says that, "Many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized." If Paul had quit when he faced abuse and opposition (verse 6), he wouldn't have experienced the blessing on the other side in verse 7. Share a moment when you experienced a blessing on the other side of a trial.**
8. **With the trials shared today, conclude your group time by praying for the people who shared a current trial, asking God to help them grow in patience.**

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

MISSION OF THE WEEK: Jireh India Missions

This ministry in India shares the good news of Jesus with those who have never heard His name. They provide homes and education for orphans at House of Peace, teach widows to sew so they can provide for their children, provide bread for much of their community through Five Loaves Bakery, and work with a leper colony. They strive to fulfill Psalm 82:3 — Defend the poor and orphans; do justice to the afflicted and needy.

CONNECT QUESTION

1. When you think of a kind person, who comes to mind and why?
2. If you had to define kindness, what would you say?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. 1 Corinthians 13 defines what love looks like. This week, Randy talked about how love is kindness. The reason Paul needs to define love and its traits is because the church in Corinth had strayed further and further from love. Over the next few months, we are going to be studying these traits and the problem that occurred in Corinth that merited a mention of these traits by Paul.

What negative behavior occurred within this congregation and how could love help? Today, we are going to look at a way the church in Corinth was being unkind. Read aloud 1 Corinthians 11:17-22.

2. With the verses in front of us, I'm going to read you the context that was going on during communion in the Corinthian church. As you listen to the context, identify moments where the church was acting unkindly toward one another. After I finish reading, let's discuss the unkind moments you identified.
 - a. Communion for the Corinthian church was not just a moment in their service where they ate a piece of bread and drank from a cup. Like Jesus and His disciples, communion was part of a meal. Wealthier believers in the Corinthian church who didn't have to work would arrive early, eat most of the meal, and get drunk on the wine that was meant for communion. Poorer believers who did have to work would arrive later and not have anything to eat. On top of that, there were divisions in how they sat. The wealthy were making a point to sit at their own tables, creating separation from those in a different economic or social class.

3. **Paul's instruction in 1 Corinthians 13 is that love is kind. What would communion look like for the Corinthian church if kindness were added to the meal?**
4. **The Holman Bible Dictionary defines kindness as, "A loyal love which manifests itself not in emotions but in actions, integral to covenant relationships and social ethics." How does the kind person you shared in the first question embody this definition?**
5. **Have someone in your group read Ephesians 2:6-7. How does God's kindness reflect our definition we just discussed?**
6. **As a church body, we are instructed to be kind toward one another. Share some moments where you have witnessed kindness in the church.**
7. **In week one, we opened up the challenge of engaging the people we sit around on Sunday morning. Here is our second challenge. In the name of kindness, this coming Sunday, we encourage you to walk around and introduce yourself to someone you don't know. You can do this by asking questions and learning about someone's story and how they came to WCC. You may need to arrive early to service for this! Next week, report back together with your group and talk about your experience. Through this challenge, WCC's prayer is that we all embody the loving kindness that God extends to us. Please continue to use pages 14-15.**

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

MISSION OF THE WEEK: Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County believes that everyone deserves to have a safe and affordable place to live and raise a family. To that end, they build more than homes; they build communities and provide educational programs and support to ensure homeownership sustainability. WCC partners with Habitat to help build homes in our communities.

SEPT 28 | WEEK 4 | LOVE DOES NOT ENVY [CORINTHIANS 13:4c]

CONNECT QUESTION

Note: If your group forgot or didn't participate in our challenge from last week, encourage them to try it again this Sunday. If your group did participate, first, congratulate them on stepping out of their comfort zone. Second, encourage them to do it again this Sunday. These conversations help create a culture of hospitality within our church that can make an eternal difference in someone's life.

1. Before we get into the study, how did your conversations go with someone you didn't know on Sunday? What stuck out from your experience?
2. Today, we are going to be talking about envy. What is something silly you've been jealous or envious of? (For example: a friend's vacation photos, a coworker's handwriting, a sibling's garage, etc.)

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13:4c that, "Love does not envy." As we discussed last week, the focus of this series will be the problems within the Corinthian church. Before we talk about envy, let's start our discussion with a focus on spiritual gifts. Biblical scholar Wayne Grudem defines spiritual gifts as "Any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church." With that definition in mind, look what Paul has to say about spiritual gifts. Have someone read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11. What do we learn about spiritual gifts in these verses?
 - a. Side note: Your group may have questions about some of the miraculous gifts mentioned within these verses (healing, speaking in tongues, prophecy, etc.) We will go into more detail about these gifts next week. If your group has questions, encourage them to come next week!
2. God gifts each Christian with a unique spiritual gift meant to grow and edify the body of Christ. The problem for the Corinthian church was envy. Certain gifts were being valued more than others. Some members were devaluing their own gifts, feeling inferior or less important compared to others. Have someone in your group read 1 Corinthians 12:12-20. What does Paul have to say about spiritual gifts in light of the envy happening within the church?

3. Envy can become serious when the feelings grow and deepen in your heart. The Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament defines envy as “Having intense negative feelings over another’s achievements or success, to be filled with jealousy.” As a group, discuss how envy can show up within these areas of life:
- Family & Friends
 - Neighbors
 - Social Media
 - Work Places
 - The Church
4. Paul says, “Love does not envy.” What is the opposite of envy? What does the opposite look like?
5. Using the definitions you gave for the last question, what would the opposite of envy look like in the Corinthian Church, specifically regarding spiritual gifts?
6. Your group will conclude with a silent reflection exercise. Read this list of questions below as a group, giving thirty seconds in between to reflect. After going through the prompts, close your group in prayer.
- Over the last few months, what situations triggered feelings of comparison or jealousy?
 - What do you believe you are lacking that would make you happy or complete?
 - What blessings have you overlooked because you have been focused on others?
 - What would it look like for you to be content with your life in this season?



Side note: Our church provides a spiritual gifts and passions assessment to help our members discover their gifts. If your group members have not had an opportunity to fill out that form, access it by scanning the QR code or emailing alex@wentzvillecc.org.

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

MISSION OF THE WEEK: Daniel and Kelsey

Daniel & Kelsey serve in a closed country in North Africa, where they are leading others to Christ while helping to run a rock-climbing business as their reason for being in the country. They live there with their two young children. Please pray that they can continue to change lives through the power of the Holy Spirit working through them and in the people around them.

CONNECT QUESTION

1. What's your most pointless or unusual talent that you're secretly proud of?
2. Today, in our study, we will discuss the topic of boasting. How do you see boasting or bragging appear in our culture today?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Last week, we discussed spiritual gifts and how the Corinthian Church valued certain gifts over others. This promotion of some gifts over others wasn't the only spiritual-gift issue in Corinth. Have someone in your group read 1 Corinthians 14:26-28. Based on these verses, what do you think is happening during their church services?
 - a. The Corinthian Church service was becoming a place of spiritual showmanship. As they spoke in tongues, the church was interrupting one another in the name of seeking attention, creating a chaotic environment where different members of the congregation sought to boast about their spirituality.
 - b. This discussion about speaking in tongues may prompt some questions in your group about miraculous spiritual gifts (healing, speaking in tongues, prophecy, etc.) To help you navigate these questions, our adult discipleship team has prepared a short five-minute video on our church's beliefs and how to navigate the conversation. You can watch the video before your group meeting, and/or you can watch it together as a group. To access the video, scan the QR code below.



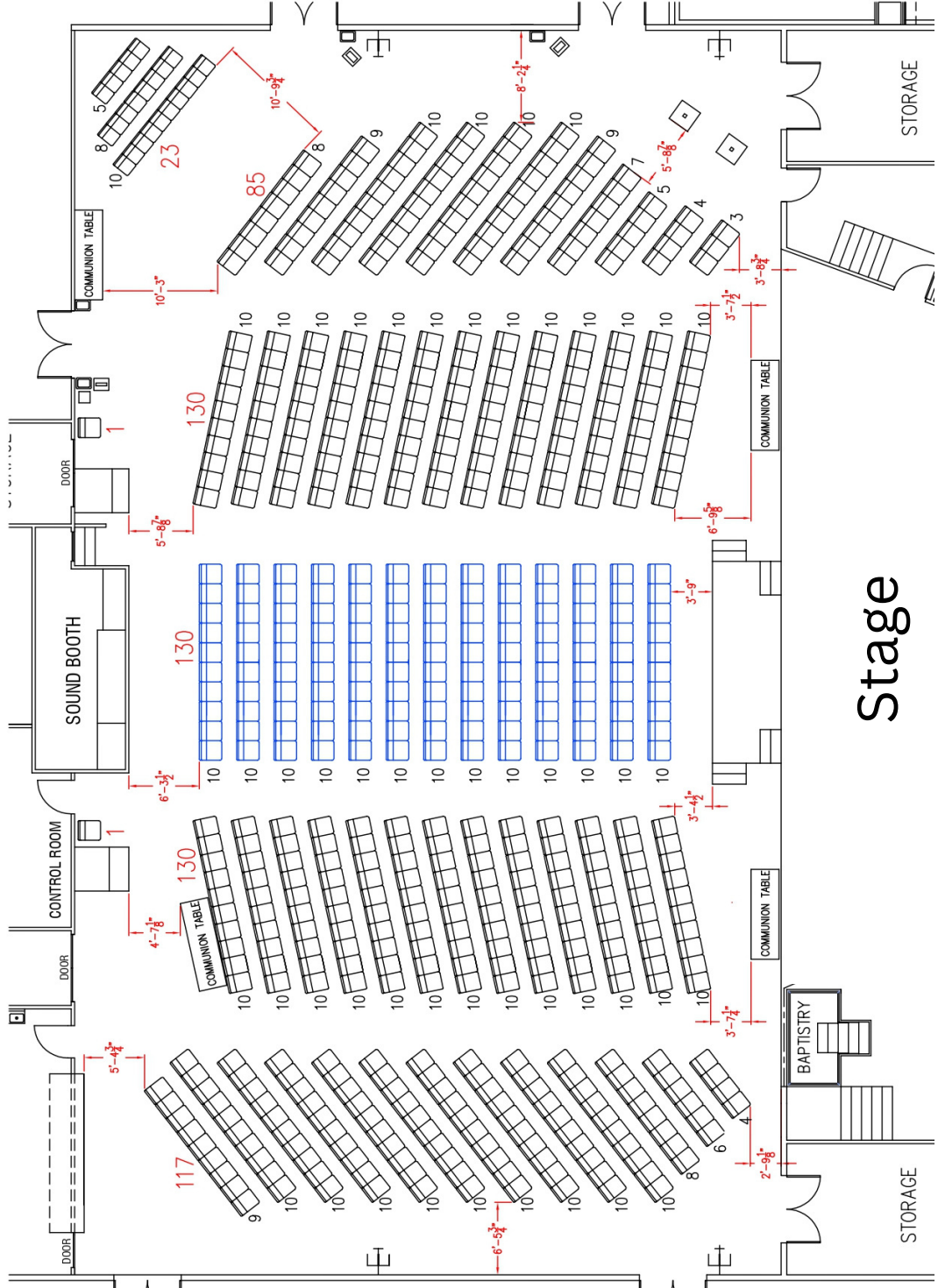
2. What's the difference between confidence and boasting? How can we tell the difference in ourselves?

- 3. Assign the verses listed below to your group. After all of the verses have been read out loud, discuss the similarities between the verses.**
- a. Jeremiah 9:23-24
 - b. 1 Corinthians 1:30-31
 - c. 2 Corinthians 10:15-18
 - d. Galatians 6:14
 - e. Ephesians 2:8-9
- 4. The message of the Bible is that, on our own, we don't have anything to boast about. Why do you think that is?**
- 5. C.S. Lewis was quoted saying, "Humility isn't thinking less of yourself. It's thinking of yourself less." How does that relate to the topic of boasting and the Corinthian church?**
- a. Commentary from Commentaries: "It is not possible to 'boast' and love at the same time. The one action wants others to think highly of oneself, whether deserving or not; the other cares for none of that, but only for the good of the community as a whole."
-Gordan Fee
- 6. Ultimately, some in the Corinthian church were coming to the service wanting to draw focus upon themselves. Paul asserts in 1 Corinthians 13:4, "Love does not boast." Love focuses our eyes upon Jesus and the community that He has put around us. In the name of being others-focused, here is your next life group challenge: ask the people you have been engaging how you can pray for them. Ideally, we are asking this question to people we have met or shaken hands with over the past few weeks. If they share an answer, consider praying with them in that moment. By doing this, we are focusing not on ourselves, but on the people God has placed around us. That's what love looks like! Again, please refer to pages 14-15.**
- 7. Close in Prayer.**

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

MISSION OF THE WEEK: LINC

LINC's mission is to provide support and direction for disadvantaged families and individuals in the community, helping them to set goals and objectives that will empower them to become productive citizens within the community.



Stage

[illegible]

UPCOMING EVENTS AT WCC:

**BETTERMAN
DEFINED** Growing in God's Word

B Beginning Sep 16
TUESDAYS | 6:30PM

GATHER
WOMEN OF COURAGE

REGISTRATION \$45
STUDENT REGISTRATION \$25

SEP 27 | 9-4PM
WENTZVILLECC.ORG/GATHER

shelter

**NIGHT OF
WORSHIP**

OCTOBER 5
6:30-8PM

246 GROUPS
2 hours - 4 questions - 6 women

Meet once a month
Grow your faith
Build real relationships
Live boldly for God

Register By Oct 5
wentzvillecc.org/women

**WOMEN
of
COURAGE**

TRUNK OR TREAT

- GAMES
- DANCING
- BARREL RACE
- FOOD TRUCKS
- CANDY
- AND MORE!

OCTOBER 19
4-5:30PM
@ WCC

wentzvillecc.org/trunk

2025 Dinner Theater production of
THE CHRISTMAS EXPRESS

Thur Dec 4th 6PM
Fri Dec 5th 6PM
Sat Dec 6th 12PM & 5PM

Tickets on sale
September 16 @ 9am

wentzvillecc.org/cdt

WENTZVILLECC.ORG/EVENTS

