Let Love Lead

Small Group Handout • November 15, 2026 • Joy in Thanksgiving

Read together 1 Corinthians 13–14 • Focus on 13:1–7; 14:1–5, 26–33, 40

Key verse "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." 1 Corinthians 13:1 (KJV)

After teaching about spiritual gifts, Paul showed the Corinthian church a "more excellent way"—love. In 1 Corinthians 13, charity means love. Even impressive speech, great faith, spiritual knowledge, and generous sacrifice lose their value when love is absent. God is love, and His love must be the foundation of our ministry.

Paul described love through everyday actions: it is patient and kind, does not envy or boast, and does not insist on its own way. Love rejoices in truth, bears burdens, hopes, and endures (13:4–7). Spiritual gifts serve a purpose now, while our knowledge is partial; love will remain when we see the Lord face to face. Spiritual maturity includes growing in how we love God and one another.

In chapter 14, Paul urged believers to pursue love and desire spiritual gifts that build up the church. Public messages should be understandable: a message in tongues requires interpretation, and prophecy strengthens, encourages, and comforts. Order, self-control, and taking turns allow others to learn and receive ministry. Love asks how our words and actions can serve the whole church, including guests, rather than draw attention to ourselves.

Discuss Together

1. Why does Paul compare spiritual speech without love to noise? How have you experienced the difference between loving service and service without love?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–7. Which quality of love challenges you most right now, and what would practicing it look like in a relationship this week?

3. How should love shape the use of spiritual gifts in a service? Why do clear communication, interpretation, and order help both believers and guests?

4. What changes when we come to church looking for someone to encourage? What specific way can you minister to another person in love this week?

Take a Step

This week I will: _____

Pray Together

Ask Jesus to strengthen our foundation of love, purify our motives, and guide our words and actions. Pray that spiritual gifts will build up His church in unity and order.