

Unhindered

Week 1 - Brian Kangas

“Unhindered Care”

Icebreaker: Who would be the most interesting person to have a thumb war with?

Texts for Discussion:

- Read **John 3:16-17**
 - Perhaps one of the most quoted passages outside of **Genesis 1:1**, John’s explanation of Jesus’s purpose is no less potent for being so brief.
 - What do these verses mean to you? (Football doesn’t count)
- Read **Romans 8:38-39**
 - Is this passage expressing something we bring to God or something he brings to us?
 - What is Paul telling us about God’s love for us?
- Read **Philippians 4:4-7**
 - One of the best parts about our Heavenly Father is his commitment to always be there to hear us.
 - Do you find it easy or hard to ask God for things?
 - How often do you pray with gratitude? With need?
- Read **Matthew 7:12**
 - Often referred to as the *Golden Rule*, this method of care is very active and anticipatory.
 - Have you been able to do this for someone? Please share with the group, these stories are encouraging to hear!
- Read **1 Corinthians 13**
 - Often used at wedding ceremonies, there is actually no mention of marriage in this passage. It is all about defining what love is and, even more importantly, what it means to **do** love.
 - Why do you think it is used so often in marriage ceremonies?
 - Can you apply this if you aren’t married? How?

Things to Consider:

- This past Sunday was Parent Promise Day. Parents and their children stepped up on stage and declared that Jesus will be the center and guiding light of their home. The texts we read through above support the following promises that these parents made to their children:
 1. We promise to make Jesus the center of this home.

2. We promise to pray out loud for you and each other.
 3. We promise to practice mutual submission.
 4. We promise to work on having a great marriage.
- It's not just for parents though. Discuss some ways that you can make these promises in your life (to yourself, to Jesus, or to your family).
 1. If Jesus is the center of your home (and life), what does that look like when someone comes to visit? When your roommate leaves a mess? When your spouse is having a bad day?
 2. Praying out loud can bring comfort to those around you, but can also key you into the needs, wants, and/or desires of those around you when you hear them pray. Praying together as a family or with your friends builds up the bonds of relationship!
 3. Mutual submission doesn't mean just rolling over when conflict arises, but it does mean trying to anticipate the needs and wants of those your care about.
 4. Whether you're married or not, you **must** be willing to put in the work it takes to keep relationships great. So often today we approach relationships with a stance of, "what will this person do for me?" We need to flip that on its head and become love to those around us. Only then will we see the power and joy that relationships were created to be for us!
 - What do you think your life would look like if you did just one of the above promises in your own life?

Going Deeper:

- Pick one of the above promises. Make a commitment to yourself (or your spouse, or your children). Your small group should become your accountability partners, helping you live out the promise, enabling you to keep to your word and living out a life re-dedicated to seeking Jesus in everything.

Prayer: This is no light thing, making these promises. Pray as a group for each other to find the peace, patience, will, strength, and resolve to stick with it. We can do nothing apart from Christ who gives us strength!