



## Bible study for the week starting December 18, 2022

### SHARE

This week in advent is all about “love.” Years ago, Gary Chapman created a concept of a “Love language” where he named the five different categories in which most people communicate love. The five are: **words of affirmation, acts of service, physical touch, giving gifts, and quality time.** Of these five categories...which do you need to see or experience to know you are loved, and which ones do you typically choose as you communicate love to others.

### READ/STUDY/DISCUSS

1. Read **1 Corinthians 13: 4-8** Which of these characteristics of love do you struggle with? Which in your opinion come a bit more naturally for you?
2. Read **ACTS 14:1-7**
  - a. “Love is patient and kind.” Even love and intention can be met with opposition and division. How do you know when to lean in and spend more time in a place or with a person in the face of opposition: and when do you know when to leave?
3. Read **ACTS 14:8-18**
  - a. “Love rejoices with the truth.” So, when the people want to worship them...they make sure they know that worship is only due to God Almighty. Who in your life is worshipping the wrong thing and how do you gently yet directly redirect them?
4. Read **ACTS 14:19-22**
  - a. “Always perseveres.” After being stoned and left for dead, Paul survived and reminded believers that “we must endure hardships to enter the kingdom of God.” How do you feel about this promise of God?
5. Read **ACTS 14:23-28**
  - a. “Keeps no record of wrongs” As we learned last week, Paul went back to all the places that had kicked him out, then told the rest of the gathered church what God did. What doors has God opened in your life? Which ones has he closed?

### PRAY

Pray that we would love others like Christ does. Pray that God's love through us would open doors and create opportunities to share what God has done. Thank Him for His love!



## ACTS 14:1-28 "Love Leads"

December 18, 2022 – Pastor Ben Schrank

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*What does Jesus born as a baby, Paul's missionary journey, and every Christmas movie ever made have in common? LOVE*

*1 Corinthians 13*

*1) SAY, 2) THINK, 3) DO*

*Love is PATIENT AND KIND, love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends (1 Cor. 13-4-8a).*

*Things we can learn from Paul's First Missionary Journey*

- 1) Love fights FOR OTHERS not with others (Acts 14:1-7).*
- 2) Love speaks the TRUTH to others...in love (Acts 14:8-20).*
- 3) Love celebrates open DOORS for others to enter (Acts 14:21-28).*

*Promise of God we wish maybe wasn't a promise: "We must go through many HARDSHIPS to enter the kingdom of God."*

*For next week read Matthew 1:18-25, Merry Christmas!*