

# PRE-DECIDE

Group Guide:  
Week 3



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## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

There are four components to a healthy group: Word, prayer, relationships, and reaching out. In this guide, you will study 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 using inductive Bible study, which has three components: observation, interpretation, and application. As the group leader, feel free to use whatever parts of this guide most help you do this!

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## CONNECT BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING

- What are some things or people in your life that you most stir up love in your heart? Why do you love them?
- Discipleship check-in:
  - Have you prayed and read your Bible consistently in the past week?
  - Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week?

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## INTRODUCTION

This series is focusing on the decisions we need to make beforehand – the *pre*-decisions – that lead to fruitful, faithful, and successful lives as disciples of Jesus. Last week, we learned that we must pre-decide to be faithfully consistent. This

week we learned in the sermon that we must pre-decide to love generously. The words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 13 are meant to fan into flame our imagination for the power of love in a fallen world.

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## OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

BID IDEA: We must pre-decide to love generously.

READ: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

DISCUSS:

- Paul's treatise on love falls between two chapters that teach us primarily about the multiplicity and diversity of spiritual gifts and their orderly practice. What is the role of love in the practice of spiritual gifts, and why do you think that it is so important for us as readers to understand this role?
  - What do you think the dangers of practicing spiritual gifts without genuine love might be? How does such practice affect others? How does it honor or dishonor God?
  - What words come to mind when you read Paul's description of love in verses 4-7? How does this challenge or share your understanding of what love is—or isn't?
  - How do understand Paul's assertion that the spiritual gifts will pass away? How do we understand the idea that love never ends?
  - Paul gives us a vision in this text of the future Kingdom of Heaven in which Christians will one day experience the coming of the perfect. How does this inspire our vision of never-ending love?
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## APPLICATION *WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?*

DISCUSS:

- Without love, Paul affirms to us that the practice of spiritual gifts is, at best, noisy and annoying, though maybe much worse. He specifically calls out the gifts of prophecy, tongues, wisdom, knowledge, and faith. Reflect on your experience of walking in the gifts of the Holy Spirit—how do you do so in love? What does it look like practically?
  - Verses 4-7 present to us a bit of a cheat-sheet by which we can assess our own love for others. When you consider the people God has placed in your life, how are you doing in loving them? In what areas do you need to grow?
  - In the matter of pre-deciding to walk in generous love as a function of ministry toward others, what are steps you can begin taking today to grow in both your capacity and willingness to love others? How does your community of faith support you and hold you accountable to grow in love?
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## PRAYER

Pray that we would all grow in the love of Christ that compels us, that we would love others out of Christ's love.

Pray that The Lord would give us opportunities to demonstrate that his love to others this week.