



Discussion Guide | Week 5: Love Believes the Best | June 14, 2020

OVERVIEW If you've ever been to more than one wedding, you've probably heard 1 Corinthians 13 read aloud. It's often called "The Love Chapter." While it sounds poetic & beautiful, it's actually gritty & oh so challenging to our culture's view of love. The harsh reality is that the description of love found here is far outside most of our own experience, certainly outside most of our experiences of marriage. But within these words is a nugget of truth so profound it could literally transform your marriage or any relationship. The single most important choice (after forgiveness) that happy couples make is to believe the best in their spouse!

KEY VERSES John 13:34-35; Galatians 5:6, 13-15; 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

REMEMBER Brad said that there's a gap between the expectations that we put on other people (our spouse included) and their behavior. We fill in this gap with our thought life – often in a way that believes the worst in others. Why do you think it's easier for people to assume the worst rather than believe the best in their relationships? Explain.

REFLECT Have someone read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 (NIV) out loud. Which of these characteristics of love described by the apostle Paul need to be dialed up in your relationships? How so? Explain.

RESPOND In what ways might your history, fears, or insecurities be obstacles to assuming the best of your spouse? What would it take to overcome those obstacles? Share.

REAL LIFE What's one thing you can do this week to choose to believe the best in your relationships? What's the most generous explanation that you can have for the other person's behavior when it fails to meet your expectations? And how can the rest of us in the group help support you in that? Share.

PRAYER Now that you've shared about how you as a group can help support one another in choosing to believe the best in others this week, spend a few minutes in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to give you what you need to follow through faithfully. Then close your time together.

QUOTES

"Knowledge doesn't equal deep. Love does."

"Love is not a feeling. It is an action."

Hearts are drawn toward acceptance. That doesn't mean you avoid difficult conversations or ignore problems. But it DOES mean you work to resolve your conflicts & get back to trusting each other. Happy couples know that believing the best is a choice.

