**Spiritual Simplicity Leader Guide**

**Session 5: Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places**

Situation #1 – How does love respond to hurts?

* The truth –

“Love is patient; love is kind”

**1 Corinthians 13:4a**

* The practice – When you are hurt, wounded, rejected, or ignored, love “absorbs” the blows (pillow) and returns a “hug” (kindness).

Situation #2 – How does love respond to difference?

* The truth -

… It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

**1 Corinthians 13:4b-5**

* The practice – Love celebrates our differences. Love refuses to compare upwards (envy) or downwards (arrogance). (1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (NIV))

Situation #3 – How Does Love Respond to Failure?

* The truth –

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

**1 Corinthians 13:6-8a**

* The practice – Love responds to failure with\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Truthful and grace-filled love chooses to bear, believe, hope, and endure all things.

Truth – Love = Judgment

Grace – Truth = Sentimentalism

**How Do Truth and Grace Go Together?**

1. Love \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all things.
   1. True love covers over and protects.
   2. True love refuses\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the failures of others.
2. Love \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all things.
   1. True love believes the best of another person.
   2. True love says, “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”.
3. Love\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all things.
   1. The word “hope” occurs 32 times in the New Testament. It has in it the idea of a hope that results in deliverance.
   2. Biblical hope is in the anchor and promise of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. Love \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all things.
   1. The word “endure” contains the idea of living under the strain of a weight.
   2. True love won’t give up, quit, or leave.

**Discussion Questions**

* Where have you failed in the past and, in your failure, ended up finding God’s love?
* True love covers, protects, and refuses to exploit. Can you think of a time when someone did that for you? Share that experience with the group.
* Chip said simplicity begins with allowing God’s love to get deep into our own hears. How does accepting God’s unconditional love simplify our lives?
* Chip said “don’t confuse endurance with codependency”. What would be the signs that someone has moved from enduring love to codependency?

**Going Deeper**

* Read Romans 15:4 and 15:13. What do these verses teach us about biblical hope?
* Is your natural tendency to show up stronger with “truth” or with “grace”?? what are some of the barriers that keep small groups from modeling truth and grace?
* Who in your life needs to hear the words, “I believe in you and I’m for you”?