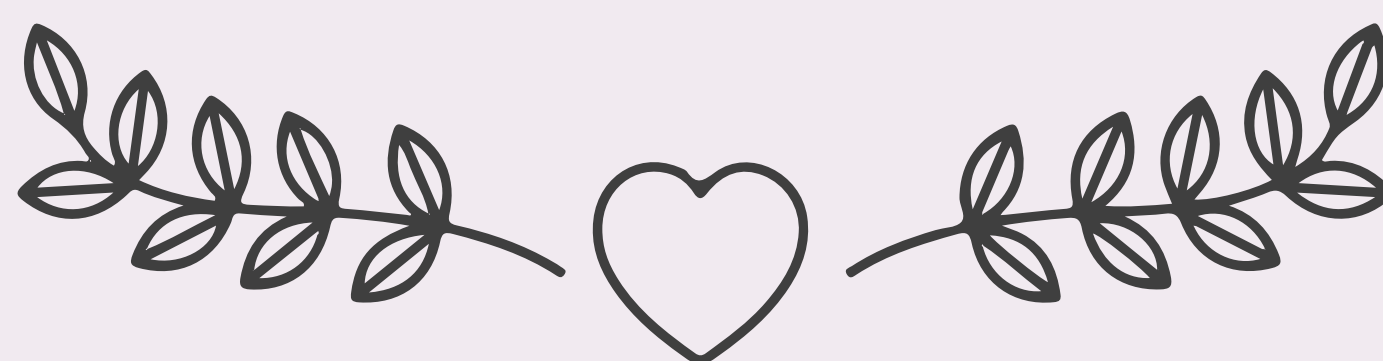


Talk
About
God's

LOVE

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7



Talk About God's Love

A special note about our journal:

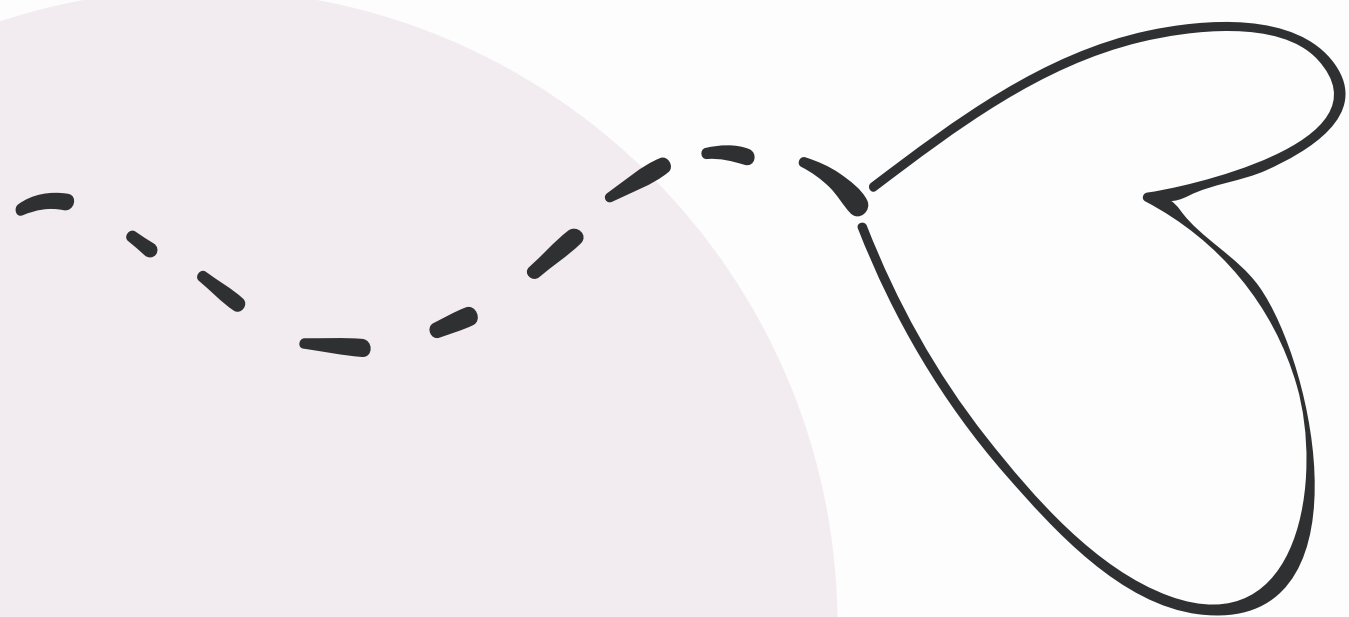
This printable journal was originally designed for you to use in your Bible Study time, alone or in combination, with following our social media posts and blogs during February 2022. It has been updated to include content from our 2022 posts and more room for journaling your thoughts and prayers as you read about God's love in His word. While there is an emphasis on 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 additional scriptures are included for each day.

We pray that you enjoy digging deep in these verses. As you study, pray that God would help you to love others as He does. Grab a friend (or two) and use this journal together to create conversation about the scriptures.

We love to study God's word "verse by verse". While we always offer verse selections, we encourage you to read the verse in context, asking God to enlighten your heart as you read His truth.

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NLT



This journal belongs to:



Father God,

You are my perfect love.

Thank you, for sending your one and only Son
down from the throne room to demonstrate
unfailing, unconditional, never-ending love.

Because He loved me so much,
He hung on the cross in my place.
Oh, that He would sacrifice His life for me!

There is no greater love than the love of Jesus.

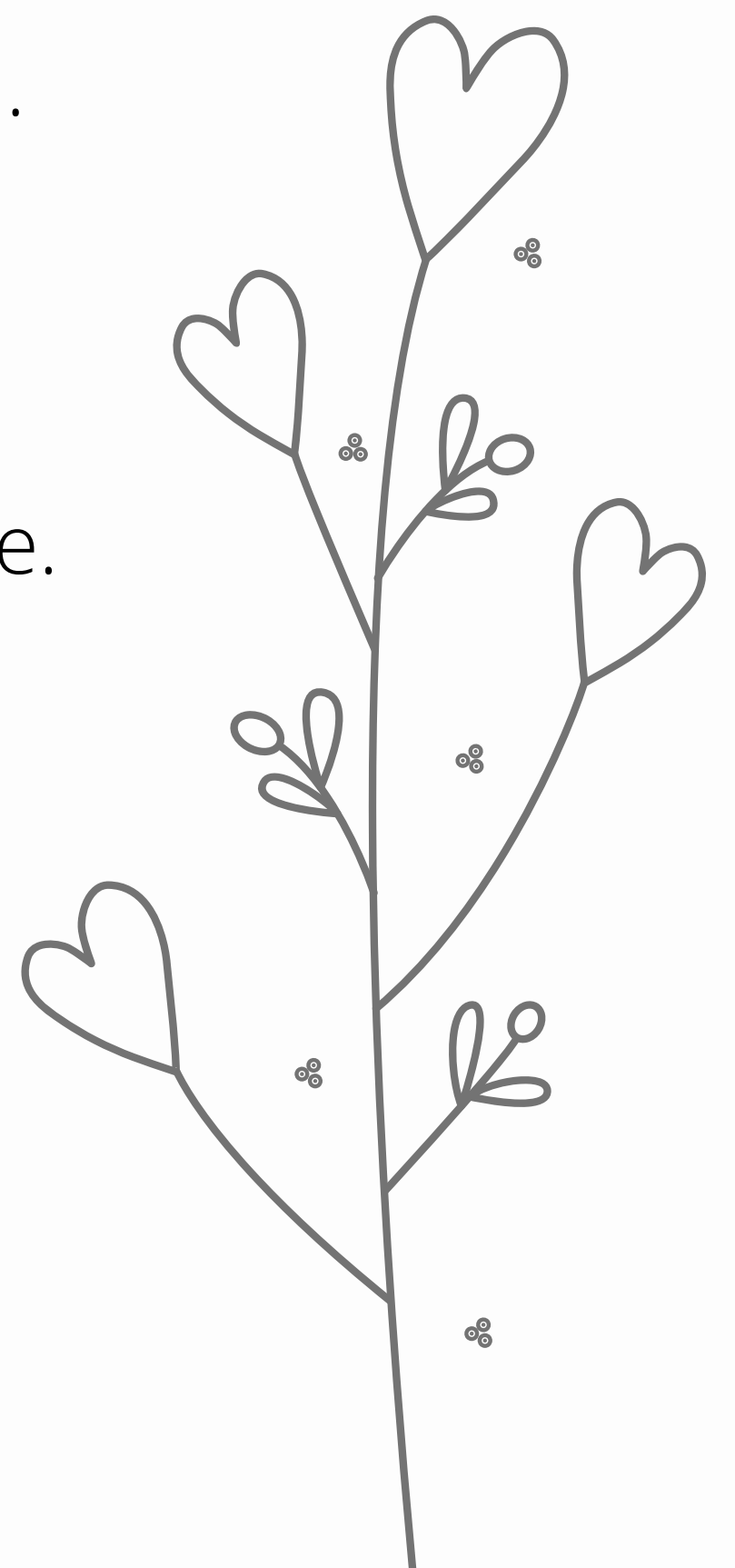
Help me love others like you do, Lord. Help me be patient
and kind. Help me listen well and speak my words in love.
When I am selfish, remind me to put others first.

In those tired and hard moments when I am unkind,
impatient, quick tempered, and fail to forgive, redirect me.
Remind me that your love is not irritable.
Remind me that you keep no record of wrong.

Strengthen my faith as I place my hope in you.
You never give up on me. I rejoice!
No matter my circumstances, I know
that your love does not waiver.
Your love endures through every circumstance.
May my love for others endure
through every trial that comes .

Father, help me love others like you.

Amen





Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NLT

Love is Patient

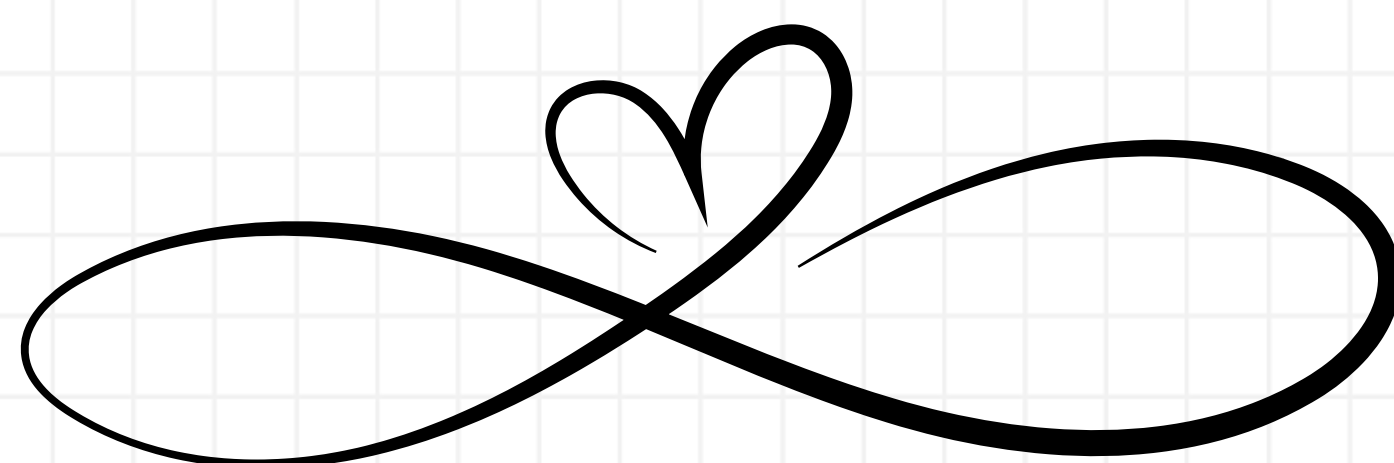
Love is patient. Did Paul really have to begin there?

We can hear a few of you saying, "I'm done with this study!" We understand. Many of us can attest to times where impatience won and if that is you, keep pressing forward. Reading God's word, praying through it, and asking the Lord to help you live what you read is a great place to be.

~Write about someone in your life, past or present, that has demonstrated patience to you.

~The Bible tells us that God is patient. Discuss why you think He is patient toward us. What scriptures support your thoughts?

~When is it most difficult to be patient? How can you avoid losing your patience even when it's difficult?

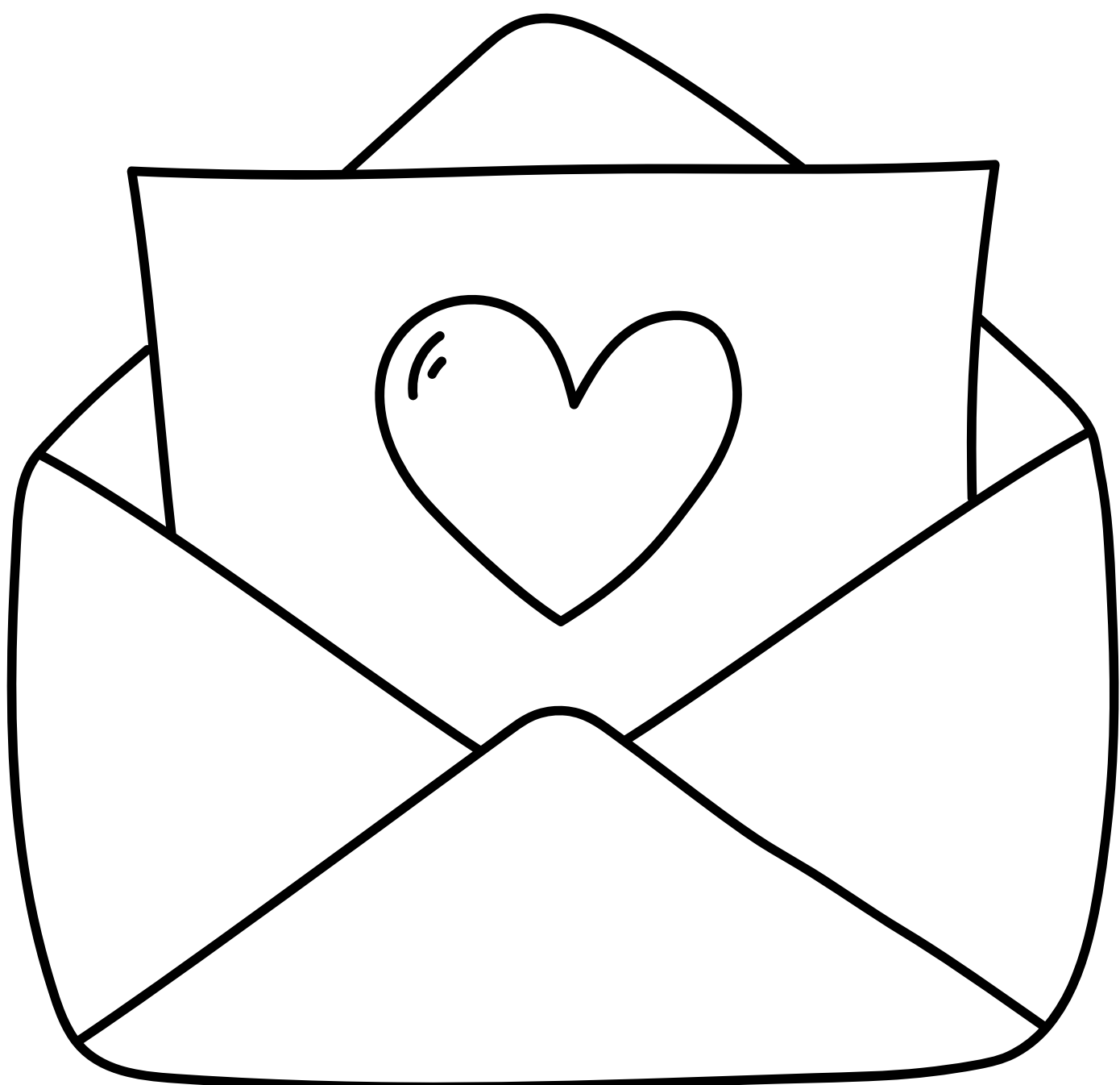


A few verses about our patient God.
Read and journal your thoughts about each verse:

2 Peter 3:9

Psalm 86:15

Romans 2:4



Love is Kind

Love is kind.

Living in a world where we often feel disconnected can leave us vulnerable to responding to others or they to us, in an unkind manner. Why is it, that we find it so easy to “say” things on-line that we wouldn’t dream of saying in-person?

“In a world where you can be anything, be kind.”

This familiar saying reflects Godly love, love that is kind. Join with us today to think about what kindhearted love really looks like, the difference it can make in the lives of those around us and in our own lives, too. We think you’ll agree that kind love can help bring us all closer together! ~ Cindy Wilkins

~Pausing before we speak or type, responding in a gentle manner, expressing sympathy and understanding toward others are just a few ways we can be gracious in love. What other actions might be taken to demonstrate a love that is kind?

~Do you recall a time when someone’s expression of kind love made an impression on you? How did it make you feel?

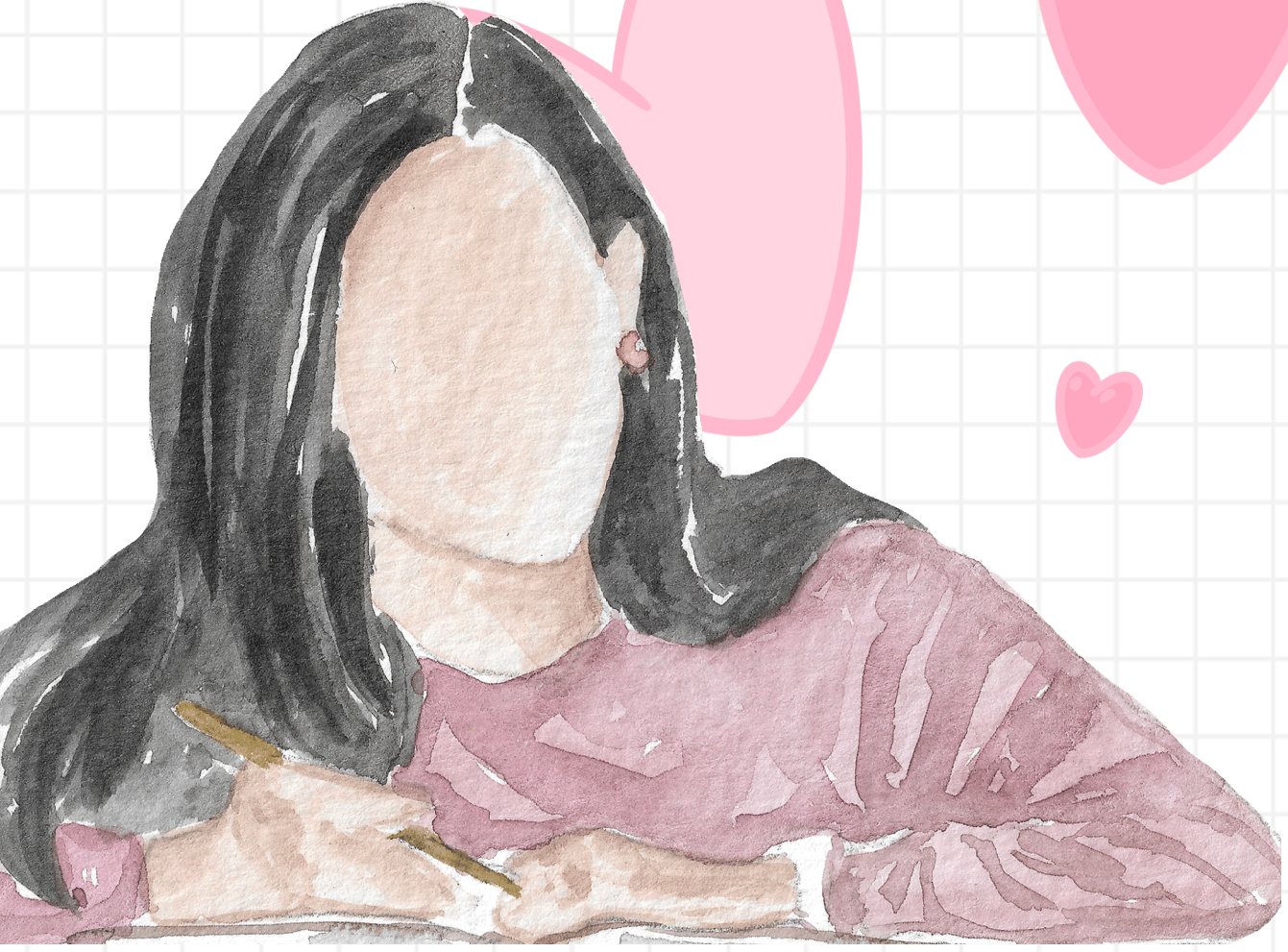
~Set a goal to share love that is kind this week, on-line or in person.

Love is Kind

Read Acts 28:1-10 and journal your thoughts and observations:

A story of kindness:

Acts 28:1-10

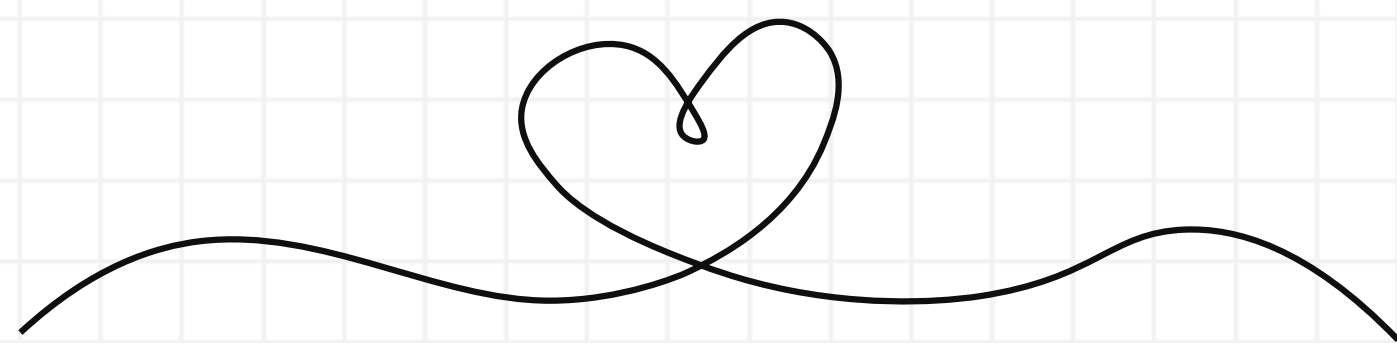


Comparing Translations

A Bible Study Tool

When we teach a Bible study, we are often asked what translation of the Bible we are reading from or which we prefer. While we may read from one version more than another, we love to compare translations. Our favorite online source for this is Biblehub.com where you can view several translations together.

Write out 1 Corinthians 13:4 in three translations:



Helpful Resources:

realwomenministries.org/how-to-choose-the-right-bible/
christianbook.com/page/bibles/about-bibles/about-translations

Love is not Jealous

Jealousy can cause all sorts of problems. Just consider the story of Joseph being sold into slavery by his brothers in the book of Genesis. Boy, did they cause a whirlwind of events. Things went so far that his brothers wanted him dead. Thankfully, in the end God worked everything together for the good of Joseph (Genesis 50:20, Acts 7:9-10). Take a little time today and reread the story in Genesis Chapter 37 and then consider our conversation starters. Use the next page to take notes.

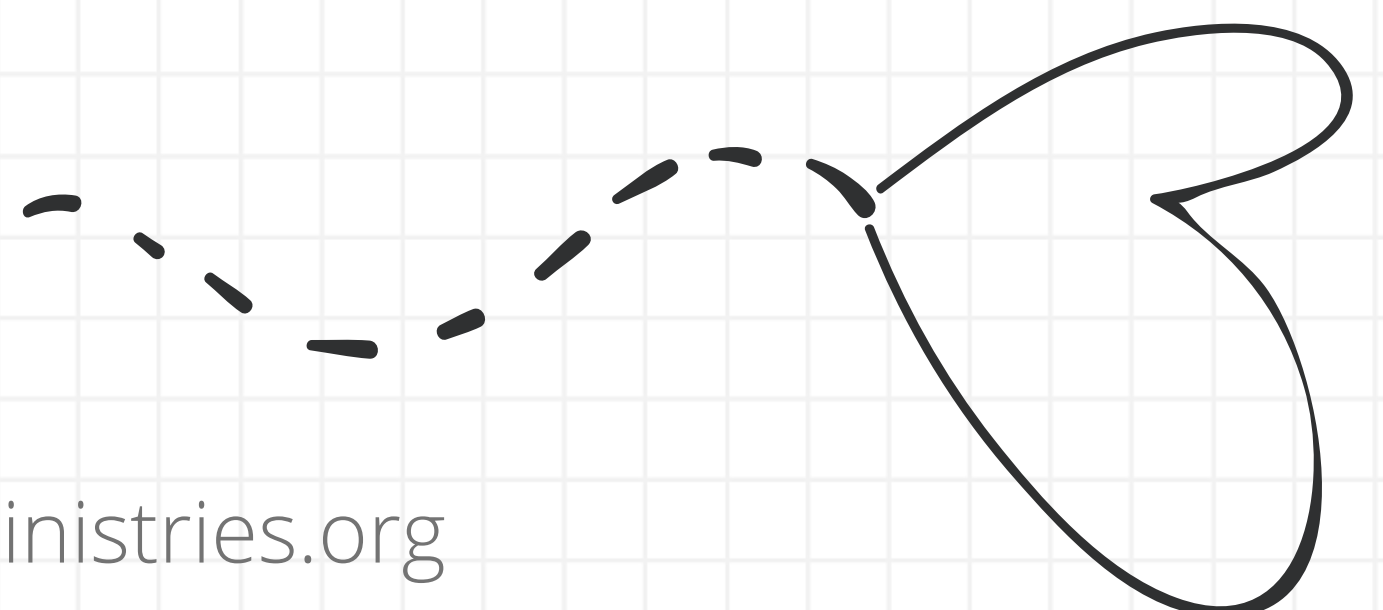
~Do you recall a time when jealousy hurt a relationship?

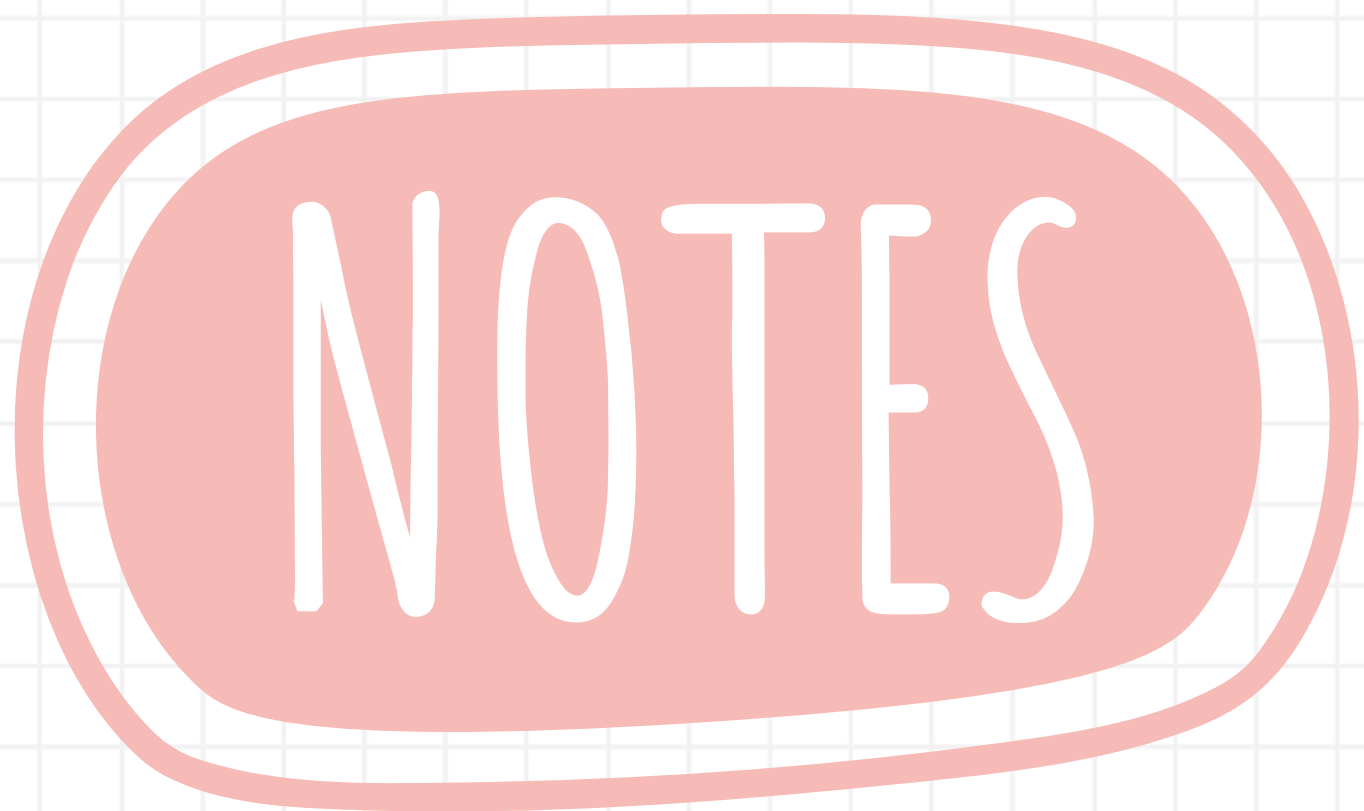


~How can we help guard against jealousy in relationships that are important to us including our marriages, parent/child relationships, and friendships?



~The Bible says God is jealous. His desire is for us to have no other God before Him. Read Deuteronomy 4:24. What things do we often place before God or worship more than Him?





A story of jealousy:

Genesis 37:12-30

Cross Reference: Acts 7:9-14

Love is not Boastful

1 Corinthians 13:4 tells us love is patient and kind, but it is not jealous or boastful. Our conversation point today is: Love is not boastful.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 tells more on this topic:

This is what the LORD says: "Don't let the wise boast in their wisdom, or the powerful boast in their power, or the rich boast in their riches. But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the LORD who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things. I, the LORD, have spoken! Jeremiah 9:23-24 NLT

Wisdom, power, and earthly riches are often things that build pride in a person's spirit. The Lord commands us not to boast about these things. Matthew Henry's Commentary shares, "In this world of sin and sorrow, ending soon in death and judgement, how foolish for men to glory in their knowledge, health, strength, riches, or in any thing which leaves them under the dominion of sin and the wrath of God! and of which an account must hereafter be rendered; it will but increase their misery."

~What does it means to be boastful?

~Some synonyms for boastful are arrogant, cocky, big-headed, conceited, egotistical. How do these characteristics interfere with loving one another?

~How we can build one another up and still foster humility?

~Read Jeremiah 9:24 and write it here:

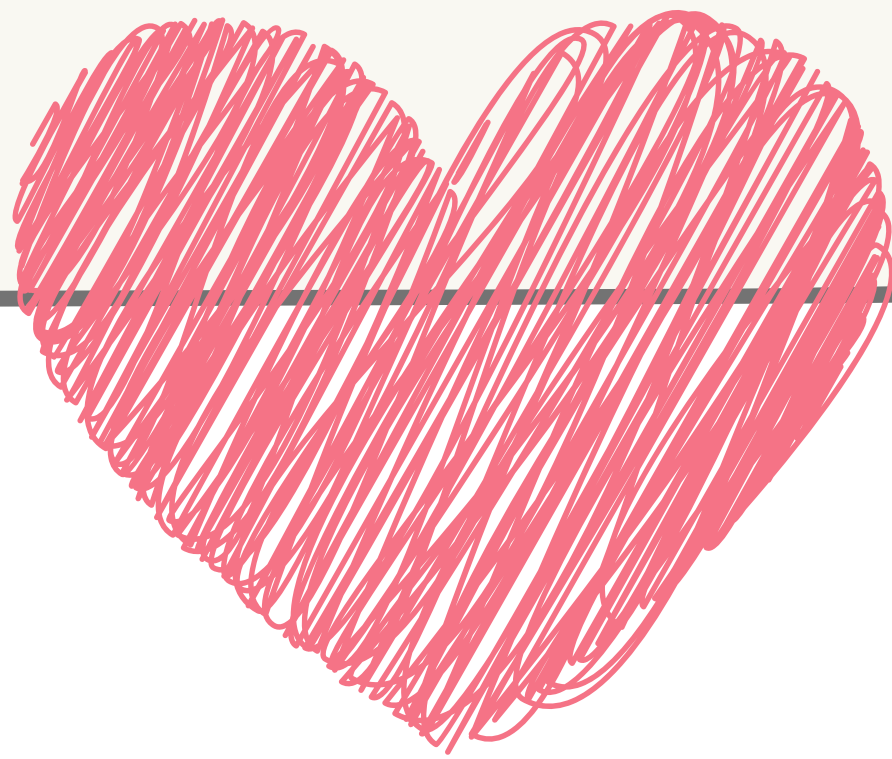
A few cross-references for Jeremiah 9:24:
read and journal your thoughts

1 Corinthians 1:31

2 Corinthians 10:17

Galatians 6:14





Today I am thankful for those who show me love like Yours, Lord!

Insert names of those who have shown you Godly love &
give thanks for them.

LOVE IS

Patient

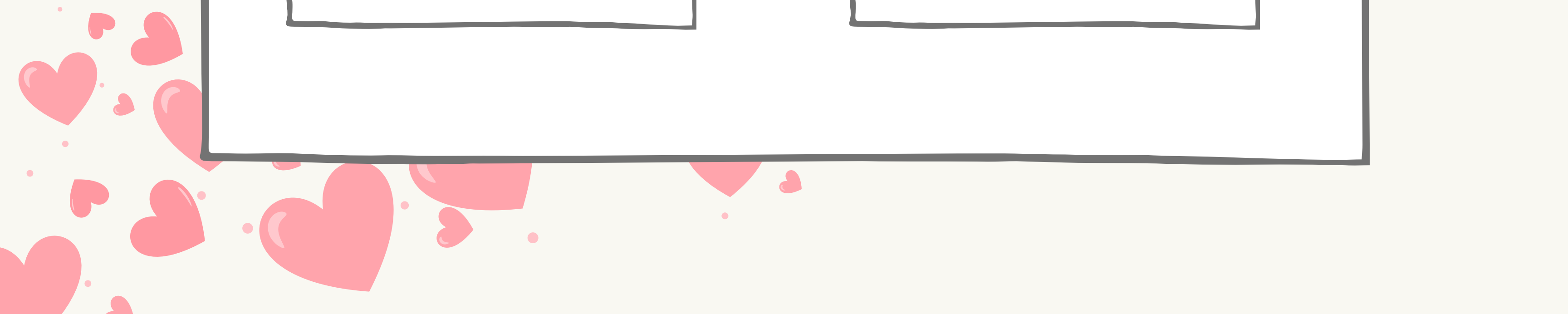
always
protects

always hopes

Kind

always trusts

always
perseveres



Love is not Proud

When I read Paul's words, "Love is not proud" in 1 Corinthians 13:4, I had to pause and think hard. Being a mom of two very special children (and a GiGi to an extra special little one) this part of the verse stopped me in my tracks. I love my children and I am proud of them. As I explored a few definitions, I found this one:

"having or showing a high or excessively high opinion of oneself or one's importance"

Ah-ha! This shed light on the subject for me and reminded me of Paul's words in Romans 12:3:

"For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you."

~Is there a difference between being proud of someone and being "full of pride"?

~Read Romans 12 and answer the following questions:

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there a sin to avoid?
- Is there a lesson to learn?
- Is there a new truth to carry with me?



Love is not Proud

Don't think you are better than you really are.
Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves,
measuring yourselves by the faith
God has given us.

Romans 12:3 NLT

Write a prayer of response:

love it is not Rude

Love is patient and kind. Love is not rude.

My daughter stops me in my tracks sometime when I am speaking. Something will flow out of my mouth and she will simply say, "rude." I don't like it one bit, but often it is true, and my course needs correcting. Paul writes to the church to do exactly that. He writes to encourage and redirect a ship sailing in a wrong direction.

The NLT Study Bible provides these facts:

-Paul wrote the book of 1 Corinthians "to identify problems in the Corinthian church, to offer solutions, and to teach the believers how to live for Christ in a corrupt society."

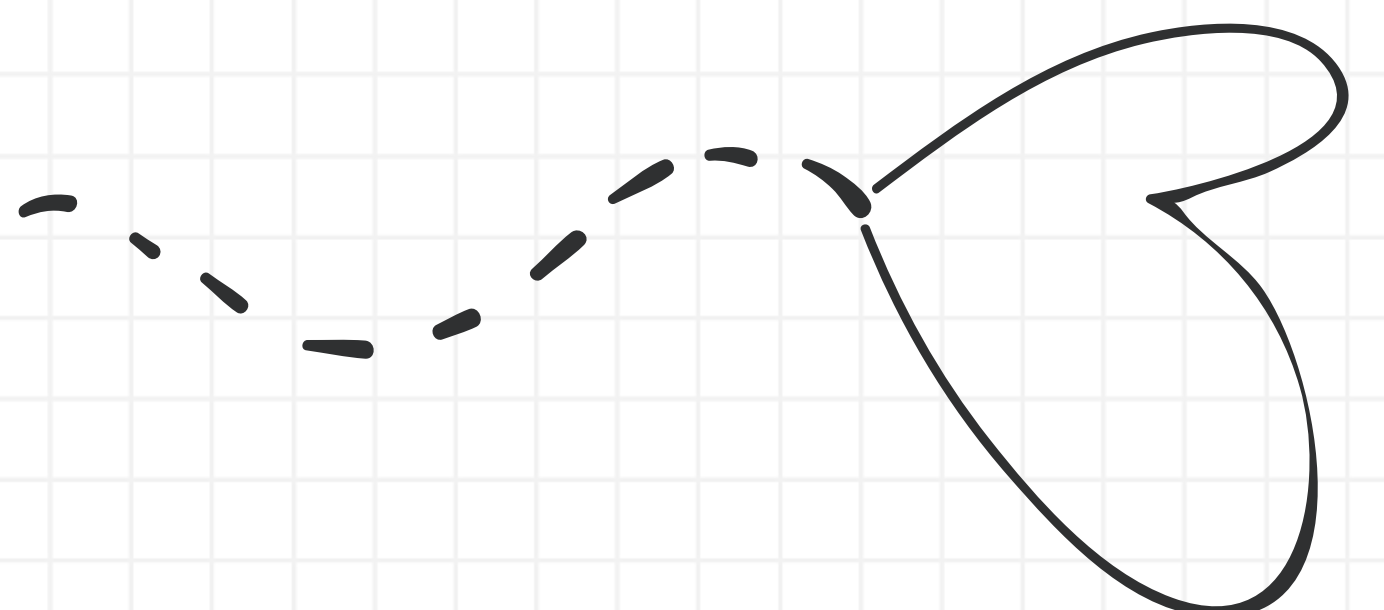
-Corinth was a major cosmopolitan city, a seaport and major trade center. It was filled with idolatry and immorality.

-The description of Christian love, as described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 "emphasizes the willingness to give up one's own desires for the good of others."


Think about those things and consider how our society is similar or different. Ask the Lord to redirect your steps when needed so that you may share His love with everyone.

~How do you feel when someone is rude toward you?

~How difficult is it to be kind and patient with someone who is being rude?



Love it is not Rude

 **rude**
/rōd/
adjective
adjective: **rude**; comparative adjective: **ruder**; superlative adjective: **rudest**

1. offensively impolite or ill-mannered.
"she had **been rude to** her boss"

Similar: **ill-mannered** **bad-mannered** **impolite** **discourteous** **impertinent**

insolent **impudent** **cheeky** **audacious** **presumptuous** **uncivil**

disrespectful **unmannerly** **ill-bred** **churlish** **crass** **curt** **brusque**

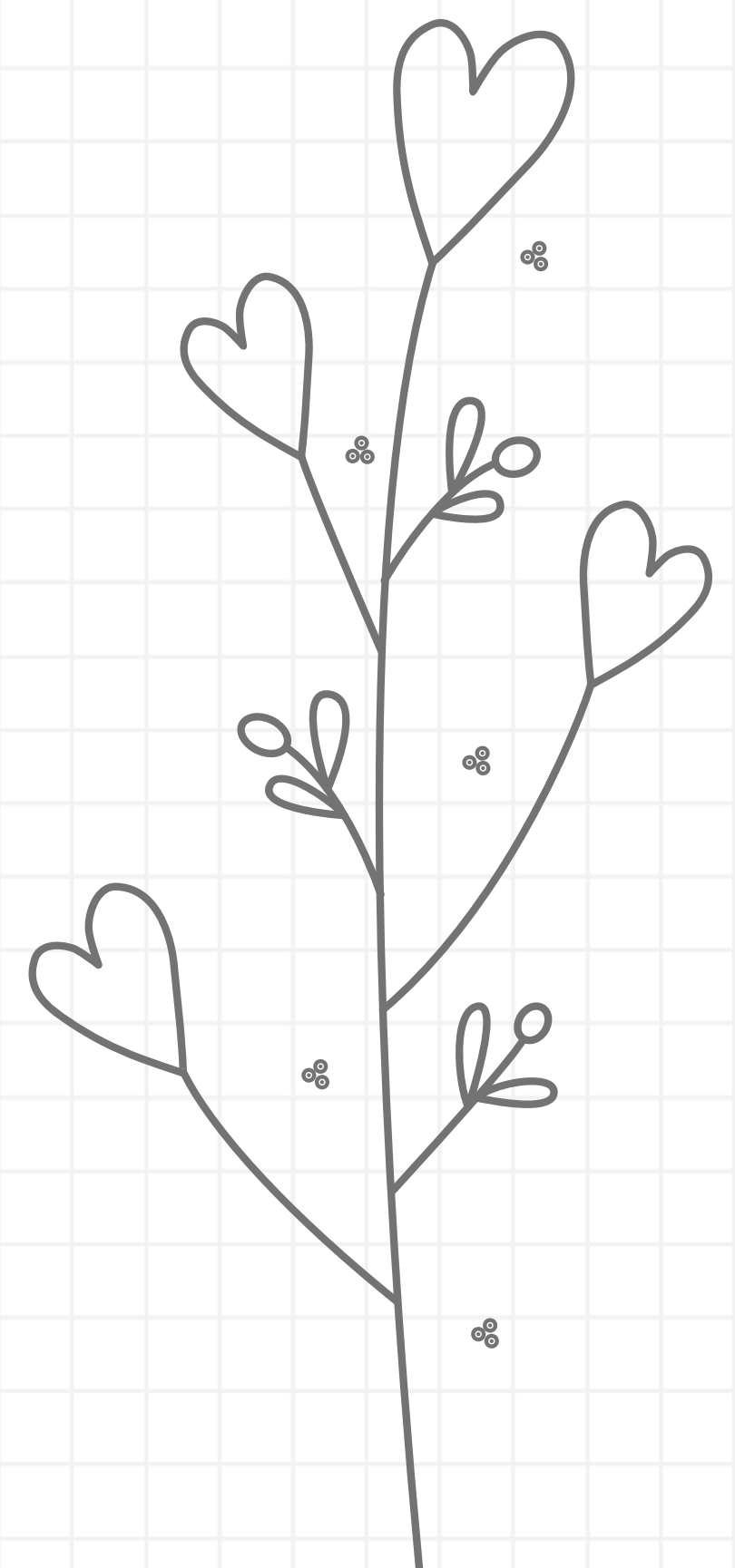
blunt **ungracious** **graceless** **brash** **unpleasant** **disagreeable** **offhand**

short **sharp** **offensive** **insulting** **derogatory** **disparaging** **abusive**

tactless **undiplomatic** **uncomplimentary** **uncharitable** **unchivalrous**

ungallant **ungentlemanly** **unladylike** **malapert** **contumelious** **underbred**

~Consider the definition above and the synonyms provided by an online source. Highlight any words that stand out to you. Is the Holy Spirit prompting you to respond?



love does not demand its own way

When we teach a Bible study, we are often asked what translation of the Bible we are reading from or which we prefer. While we may read from one version more than another, we love to compare translations. Our favorite online source for this is Biblehub.com where you can view several translations together. For example, Biblehub offers this side by side comparison for 1 Corinthians 13:5:

New International Version

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

New Living Translation

or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.

English Standard Version

or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

Clearly, love, as described by Paul, does not demand its own way. Jesus tells the crowd and His disciples in Mark 8:34, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me." To love selflessly, is to love like Jesus.

~As you compare the translations of this verse, how is God speaking to you?

~Are there times you demand your own way with others? with the Lord?

LOVE

love does not
demand its own way

Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said,
“If any of you wants to be my follower,
you must give up your own way,
take up your cross, and follow me.

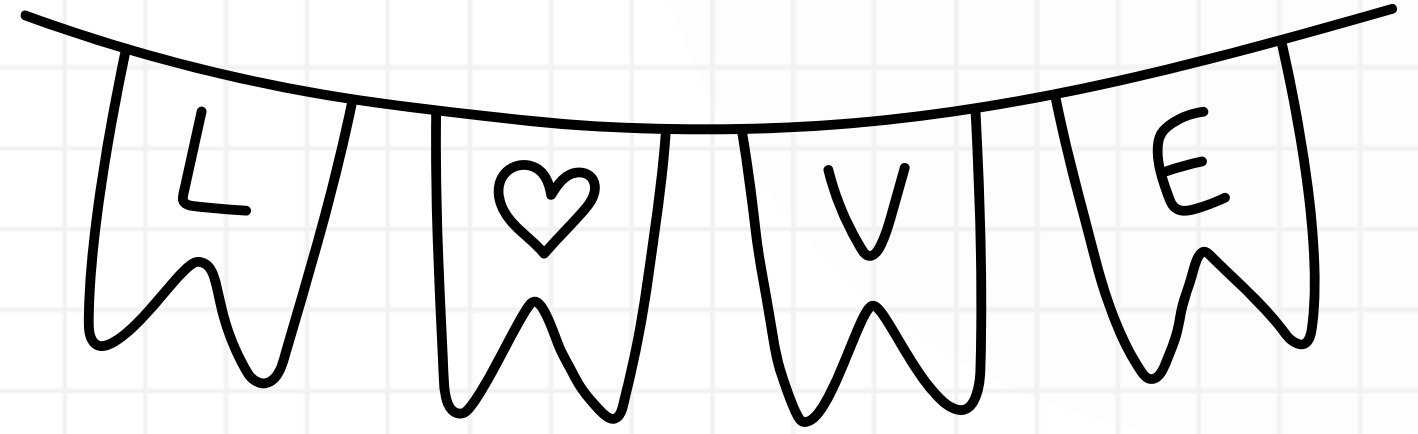
Mark 8:34 NLT

Write a prayer of response:

Love it is not Irritable

Love..."it is not irritable" 1 Corinthians 13:5 NLT

Oh goodness. Maybe today we should just pray.



Lord,

You are our perfect love. You are love that came down from the throne room to walk among your people. You demonstrate unfailing, unconditional, never-ending love. Thank you for your great love. Help us love like you. In those tired and hard moments when we are unkind and quick tempered, redirect us. Remind us Lord, that Your love is not irritable. Amen

Have you been irritable toward someone this week?

Find them. Call them. Apologize. Share a cup of coffee and a good, long chat♥

~What triggers can you identify that lead to an irritable response?

~How can you guard against being irritable with others?

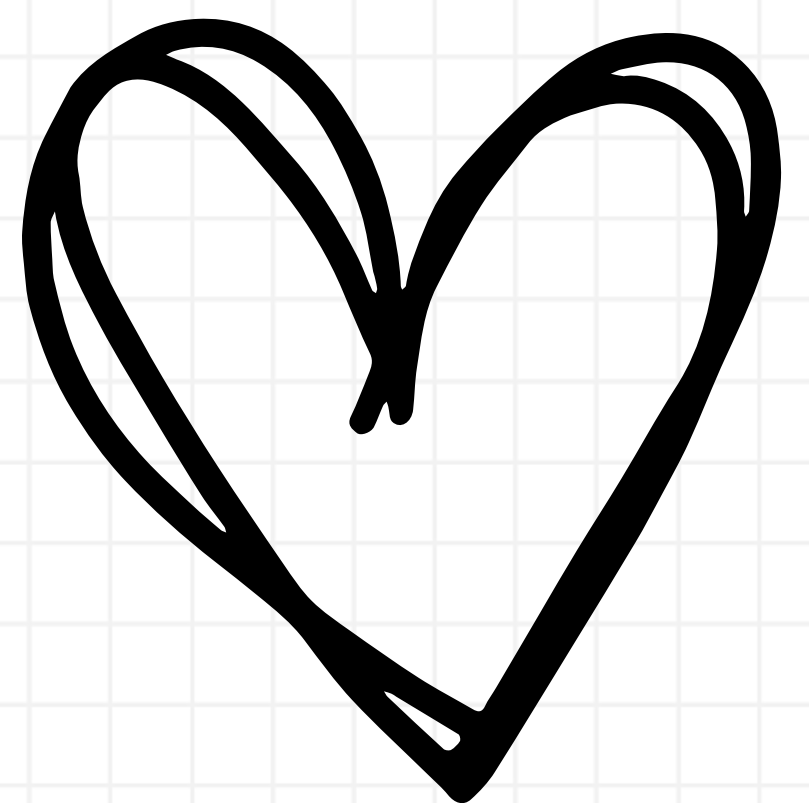
love it is not Irritable

Compare translations and journal your thoughts

New International Version
"it is not easily angered"

English Standard Version
"it is not irritable or resentful"

King James Bible
"is not easily provoked"



love keeps no record of wrong

How thankful are you for the clean slate you have with Jesus?

In Luke 7:36-38, we read about a woman who poured out expensive perfume onto the feet of Jesus as she wept over her sins. Her gratitude was abounding because she had been forgiven a great debt. Her record was wiped clean. She was forgiven and so are we when we accept Christ as our Savior.

Are you carrying a burden of guilt?

I remember the day my daughter first saw the words, “Love...it keeps no record of wrong” in my Bible. She pointed to them and smiled. I understood. Trusting that the Lord cancels our record of wrong and frees us to worship Him at His feet for the sacrifice He has made. The burden of guilt and shame are lifted and replaced with peace.

The Lord would have us to show this same love toward others. We are instructed in Colossians 3:13 to “Make allowances for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”

~How thankful are you for the clean slate you have with Jesus?

~ Do you find it easy or difficult to forgive others?

~Is your natural tendency to forgive someone of an offense or hold a grudge?

love

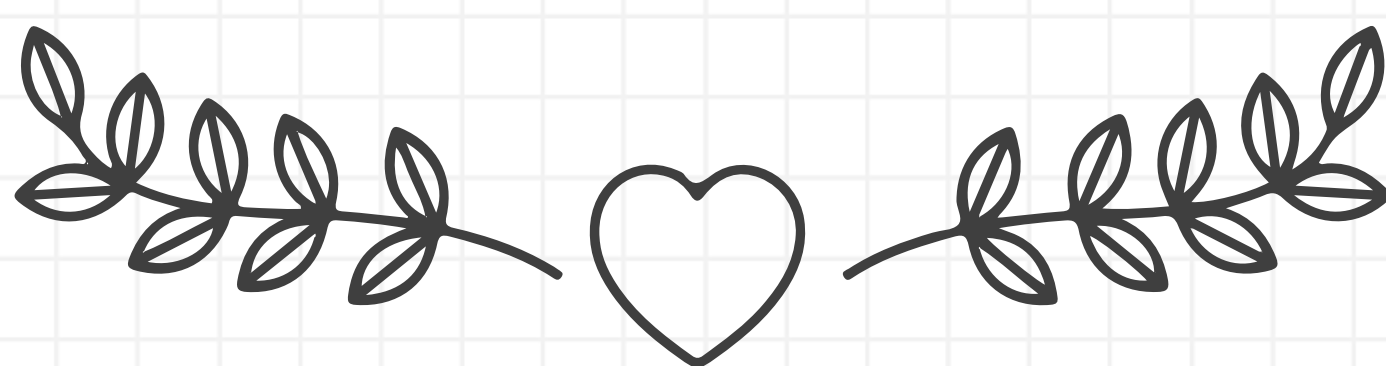
keeps no record of wrong

Make allowance for each other's faults,
and forgive anyone who offends you.

Remember, the Lord forgave you,
so you must forgive others.

Colossians 3:13 NLT

Write a prayer of response:



love does not rejoice in
injustice but rejoices
whenever truth wins out.

Love..."It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever truth wins out." 1 Corinthians 13:6 NLT

Our world needs this kind of love; rejoicing whenever the truth wins. There are scenes that run through my mind from the news where people are gathered applauding and cheering over injustice. It's heartbreaking.

When we celebrate injustice, we abandon the truth.

When my son was killed, I sought God's Word, day, and night. While reading the Psalms I noticed that David often waited on the Lord for justice. I found myself doing the same thing while our family waited on the legal system to investigate, charge, and try the accused. I knew that no matter the outcome, it was only the Lord who could bring justice, and His way and timing were what mattered. The truth that I wanted to win out is recorded in the Bible. No matter the outcome of a worldly trial, I longed for others to see and know the love of Jesus, including the man responsible for my son's death. Many would say that justice prevailed when the judge read the sentence in court. I was most grateful for the opportunity to let the accused hear the words, "Jesus loves you and forgives you".

~When we celebrate injustice, we abandon the truth. How do you think that makes God feel?

~We serve a God of justice and truth. We serve a loving God who asks us to be salt and light to a dying world. How can we share the truth today, so others may rejoice over it tomorrow?

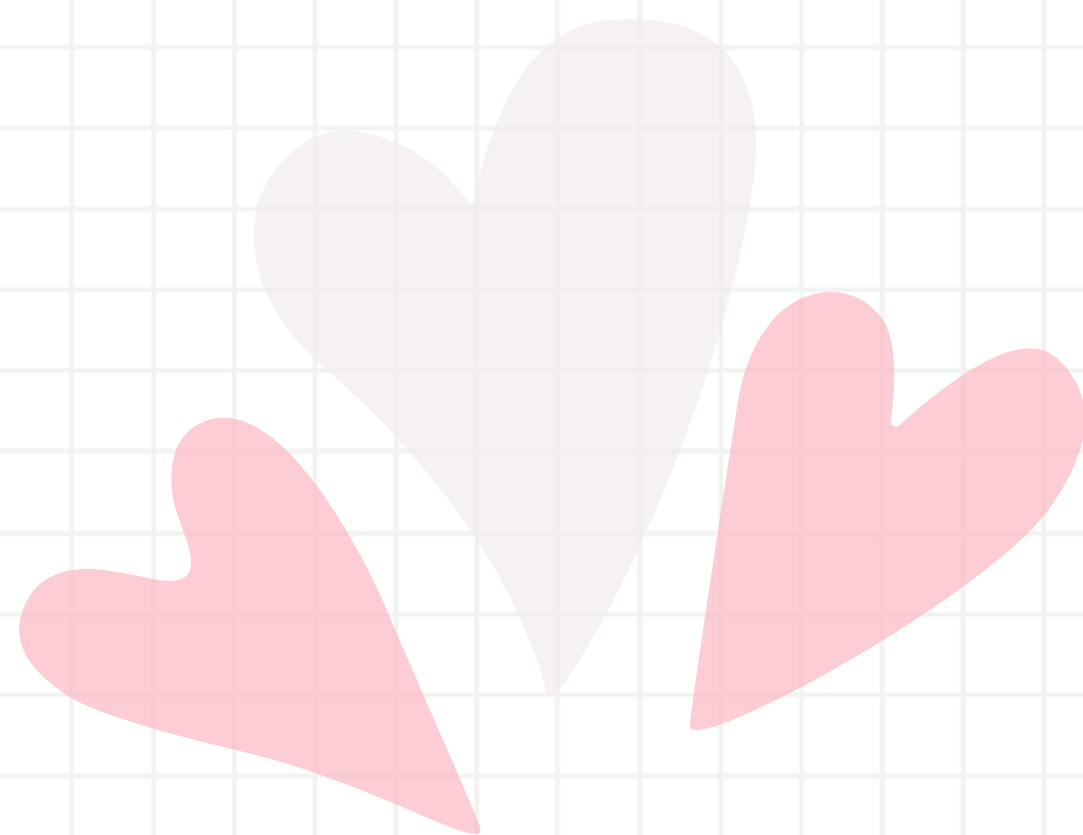
~In what ways can we be examples of this love in a world we know is full of injustice?

love does not rejoice in
injustice but rejoices
whenever truth wins out.

Better is a little with righteousness
than great revenues with injustice.

Proverbs 16:8 ESV

Write a prayer of response:



love never gives up

"Love never gives up." 1 Corinthians 13:7 NLT

Not once does God give up on you!

Tell your heart that you are dearly loved.

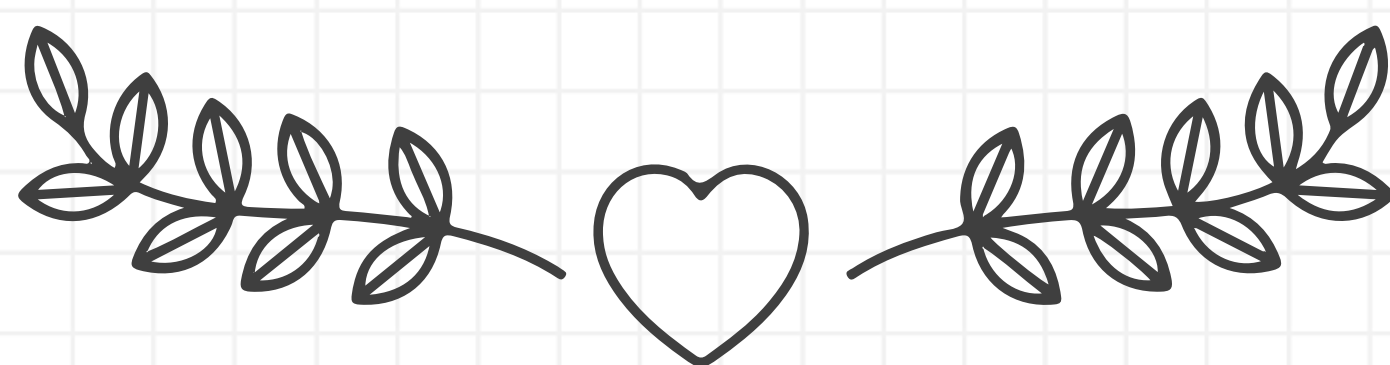
Tell your spouse and your children that they are dearly loved.

Tell a friend, a co-worker, and yes, tell the person you meet in line at the grocery store today.

The world needs to hear that God loves them, cares for them, and wants the very best for them.


~Not once does God give up on you. Write a prayer of thankfulness for God's unending love.

~Read Romans 8:35-39. Journal your thoughts about these verses:

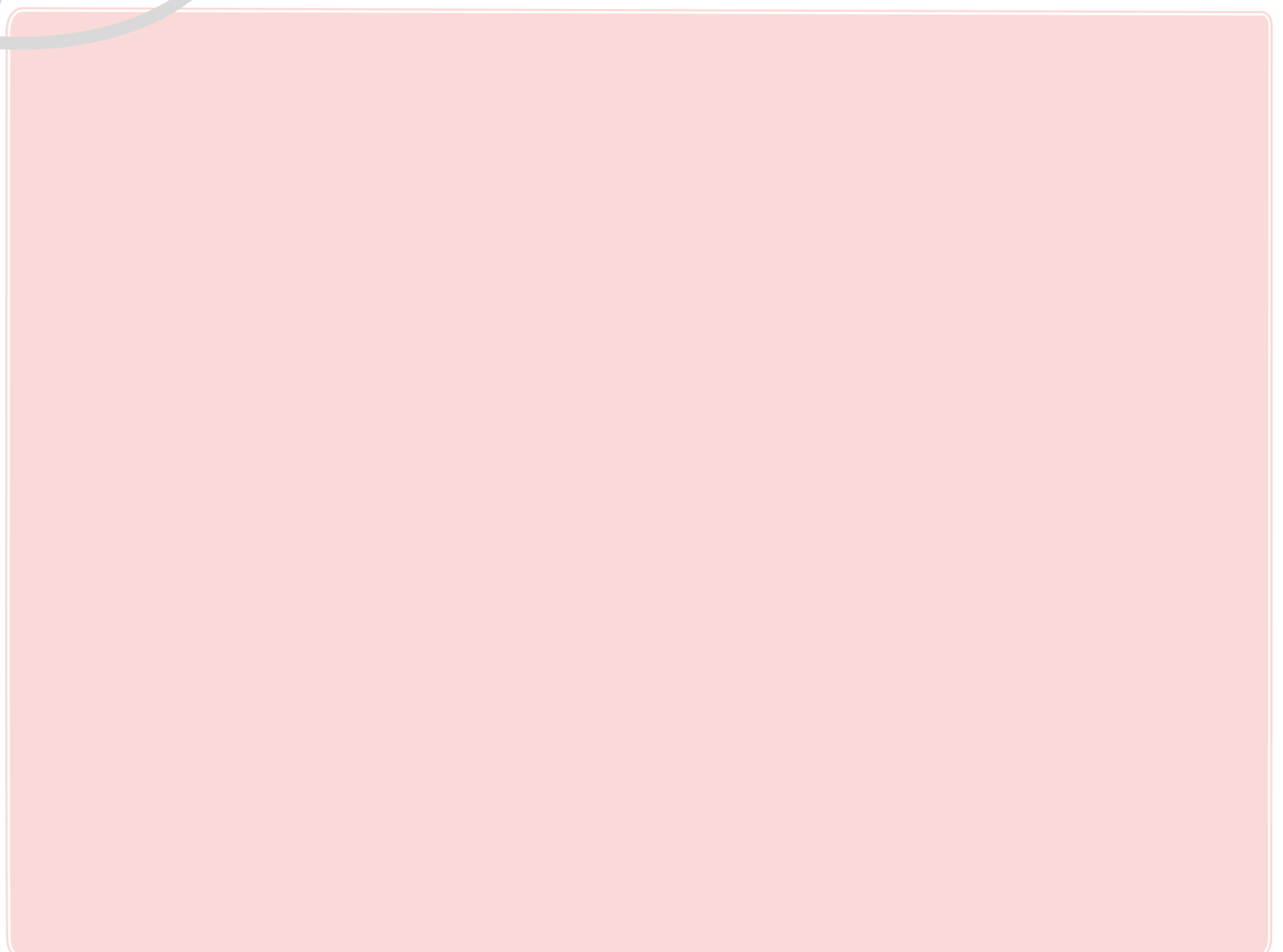


love never gives up

No matter what storm you face, you need to know
that God loves you. He has not abandoned you.
Franklin Graham



**In each block write
someones name
that needs to know
God loves them.
Pray for each
person and consider
a way that you can
share God's love
with them.**



love never loses faith, is always hopeful

How many times do we give up hope? We cave to our disappointments. We let the world tell us our circumstances mean we are not loved. Goodness, we even tell our own hearts that our struggles and hurts mean we are unloved.

Now ask yourself, "Where is my hope?" Or perhaps ask yourself, "Who is my hope?"

There's a familiar song that comes to mind when I ask this question and I find myself singing, "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus' name." When I sing this song, I remember the scripture found in Hebrews 6:19, "This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary."

Our anchor holds in the storm. His love does not waiver when our circumstances change. He loves always; yesterday, today, and forever.

Love is always hopeful when we trust in Jesus.

~Look up the definition for "hope". What does it help you understand about love that is always hopeful? How can we demonstrate it to others?

~Life can be difficult. Read Romans 5:3-5. How do these words encourage you to not lose faith?

love ♥ never loses faith, is always hopeful

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Romans 5:3-5 NLT

suffering

perseverance

character

hope

God's love

love endures through every circumstance

You are loved.

Now I know that you still want more. How do I know? I am that girl too!

**I desire the love of my Father...
and still**

I desire the love of my husband.

I desire the love of my children.

I desire the love of my friends.

I've found that the things I desire are often obtained by freely offering the very thing I wish to be given. It's a beautiful circle. Love and be loved. Yes, the circle is often broken...we are a mess sometimes. But I still want love within my mess! Don't you?

I desire the love of my Father when I sin.

I desire the love of my husband when I fail him.

I desire the love of my children when I lose my patience.

I desire the love of my friends when I let them down.

Even when our best falls short, we desire the love of another and the best way to receive that love is to offer that unconditional love ourselves.

Offer love to our husband when he disappoints.

Offer love to our children when they disobey.

Offer love to our friends when they don't show up for us.

This type of love is love that is patient and kind, always hopes, and endures through every circumstance. This Godly love strengthens us.

Today, consider going to someone you've hurt or even someone who has hurt you. Lovingly, talk it over, offer forgiveness, or ask for forgiveness.

~Write down John 3:16 and Hebrews 13:8. Think about how these verses are connected. In what ways do they reassure you that love endures?

love endures through every circumstance

~Think about a time in your life when someone's love for you endured in a circumstance it might not have. What did you learn? How do you now put this kind of love into action?

Psalm 136:1-3

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods.

His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the

Lord of lords:

His love endures

forever.



