

# Sister Talk: Resuscitate Your Faith

## Going Deeper — Week 24: The Spirit of Love

### **Memory Verse:**

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

1Peter 4:8 ESV

**Gratitude:** *There is no better way to remember who you are... whose you are... than to give thanks. Write down things you are thankful for this week.*

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### **This Week's Spiritual Discipline**

Throughout our faith journeys we have practiced a variety of spiritual disciplines. Spiritual disciplines are simply habits or activities we exercise to help us grow in faith. Each week we will make a suggestion for you to try.

#### **Make the Word Flesh**

Jesus is the Word made flesh (John 1:14). He came to reveal how to live the Word we received in Scripture. He put flesh on it, made it applicable to our lives.

This week we're asking you to put flesh on the spirit of God's love found in Scripture.

#### **Read 1Corinthians 13:4-7**

These verses are God's definition of love, they reveal the spirit of God's love.

Prayerfully address each aspect of the love described, i.e., *love is patient*, and consider a personal application. Ask God: "Who do I need to be more patient with? Why?"

Continue through each aspect: *love is kind... love does not envy... love does not boast... love is not arrogant... love is not rude...* You get the idea.

Apply each characteristic of the spirit of love to your life personally. Seek God's help in the process. Ask Him to work in your heart to enable and empower you to love with His Spirit.

## *The Spirit of Love*

<p><i>Day 1</i></p> <p><b>Read 1Corinthians 13:8-13</b></p> <p>These verses follow God’s definition of His spirit of love, the one we are fleshing out in our spiritual discipline. (You might take a moment to review 1Corinthians 13:4-7.)</p> <p>What do these verses say about love?</p> <p>What do these verses say about our spiritual maturity now?</p> <p>We are not yet done growing up. As spiritual babes we understand love as infants. If our needs aren’t met, we aren’t loved. As we grow from children to adults we begin to understand love gives, and in the giving we get.</p> <p>How old would you say you are spiritually speaking?</p> <p>Fleshing out other-centered love in a self-centered world seems dangerous. It takes spiritual maturity to step out in faith and love others as God calls us to.</p> <p>Ask God to help you abide in faith, hope, and love as He grows you up to love like Him.</p>	<p><i>Day 4</i></p> <p><b>Read Galatians 5:13-14</b></p> <p>What are brothers and sisters of Christ called to? How are we to use our freedom? Why are we to use our freedom to serve others and not self?</p> <p>Jesus set us free to serve one another in love. When we look to caring for the needs of others rather than our own, we fulfill the whole law: <i>love you neighbor as yourself.</i></p> <p><b>Read John 13:34-35</b></p> <p>What is the “new commandment” Jesus gave His disciples? What does following this commandment reveal?</p> <p>We are commanded by Jesus to love one another as He loved us. Sacrificially. Selflessly. Shamelessly.</p> <p>By loving one another this way, people will know we are disciples of Jesus?</p> <p>Do people in your realm of influence see you as a disciple of Jesus? Does your husband? Do your children? your co-workers and friends?</p>
<p><i>Day 2</i></p> <p><b>Read Luke 15:11-12</b></p> <p>Would you have done the same? Divided your estate and given the youngest his portion? Why or why not?</p> <p><b>Read Luke 15:13</b></p> <p>How would you have responded to the son’s leaving?</p> <p><b>Read Luke 15:14-16</b></p> <p>What would have gone through your mind when you thought of your son out there... somewhere?</p> <p><b>Read Luke 15:17-24</b></p> <p>Would you have thrown a party and celebrated the son’s return? Think about how others might counsel you in the parenting of this wayward child. What would they say?</p> <p>The son’s reckless spending of all the father worked for was a waste, but none of it mattered. It doesn’t matter to God either. Is there something keeping you from this kind of love when it comes to someone in your life? How is God calling you to love?</p>	<p><i>Day 5</i></p> <p><b>Read 1Corinthians 12:12-27</b></p> <p>What do these verses tell us about the body of Christ, the church?</p> <p>Take this analogy as far as it will go. Think about your body parts. What if they worked against each other? What if they envied one another? Can you begin to see why the spirit of love begins with loving other Believers?</p> <p><b>Read John 17:20-23</b></p> <p>What does Jesus pray for us to be? Why?</p> <p>Jesus prayed for us to be one as He and the Father are one, so the world may believe. Put in words what this means to you.</p> <p>Ask God to fill you with the Spirit of His love.</p>
<p><i>Day 3</i></p> <p><b>Read Hosea 1:2-9</b></p> <p>What comes to mind when you consider Hosea’s call to marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her? What kind of love is this?</p> <p><b>Read Hosea 3:1-3</b></p> <p>At some point Gomer left Hosea and went back to her former ways. Hosea’s extravagant love for her did not change her. Yet God calls him to go get her back. And he purchased her from another man.</p> <p>How is this a picture of God’s love for us? What in your life draws you away from God’s love?</p> <p>He is not willing to let you go, and He paid everything to bring you back. Give thanks today for God’s extravagant love.</p>	<p><i>Want to learn more?</i></p> <p><b>Sister Talk: Going Deeper</b> is an extension of <b>Sister Talk: Resuscitate Your Faith</b>. You can find more on <b>The Spirit of Love</b> by going to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SisterTalkFaith.com</b></p> <p>Scroll to the bottom and search <b>Week 5/Day 4: Love</b> to review more information on the Spirit of love.</p> <p>Sign up to receive blog posts by e-mail and each day’s lesson will come straight to your inbox.</p> <p>Follow us on <b>Instagram</b> for encouragement along the journey at <b>sistertalkfaith</b>.</p>