

(re)Focused

Celebrate and Serve (Week 2)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

Healthy relationships come into focus when we celebrate and serve those around us.

Key Scriptures

Love is patient, love is kind. 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. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NIV

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyong who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

Mark 9:35 NIV

Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

Romans 12:15 NIV

Love does not parade itself

- ___ Love in action works anonymously

Love is not puffed up

- Love is not arrogant and self-focused

Love is not the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. Love is the New York City Sanitation Department.

The opposite of puffed up parading pride is simple, faithful service.

Envy craves what others have, and celebrates when what they have is lost.

- Celebrates other's failures
- Hopes for other's catastrophes

Love celebrates and serves others.

Start talking.

- What is the best "relationship" book you've read? Explain.
- What is the silliest relationship advice you've received?
- What is wise relationship advice you wish you would have listened to sooner?

Start thinking.

- Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. After describing what love "is", why does Paul now shift to what it isn't?
- Why does he begin with envy, boasting, and pride? How are the three linked?

- Why is it important for true love not to parade itself and puff itself up?
- Define envy. How is it different from jealousy? Why is it so destructive?

Start sharing.

- Read Mark 9:35. How does that verse speak to you and your relationships?
- Read Romans 12:15. How is that verse the antidote to envy? How have you gotten this wrong in the past?
- What are practical ways you have "paraded and puffed up" in the past?
- Why is it sometimes hard to celebrate other's successes?

Start doing.

- How can you pop the bubble of pride in your life this week?
- Who can you celebrate this week?

Closing prayer.

Lord, thank you for loving me faithfully and consistently. Thank you for your word and your example. Forgive me for the ways I allow pride and envy to take root and damage my relationships. Give me the strength and courage to love others as you love me. Selflessly. Help me to serve and celebrate those around me.