

West Towne Circles Discussion Guide

# Love Is Not

(February 9th - March 1st 2020)

LOVE  
IS NOT



I Corinthians 13

# Week One: Love is Not Envious

## Overview

It's February, and you know what that means: relationships will be on full display this month. As a church, we've resolved to look at relationships (friendships, between family, romantic relationships, and church relationships) through the lens of 1 Corinthians 13. In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul teaches them how to apply the Gospel to all parts of their lives, and how love is the thing that binds everything up together.

In this week's message, we talked about the danger of envy. Solomon writes in Proverbs: "A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones" (Proverbs 14:30). You may be able to recall a time in your life in which envy caused some trouble. Perhaps it was the envy of a friend or family member, or maybe your own envy caused you to make an unhealthy decision. Whatever the case may be – we know that envy can cause some major damage in our lives and in our relationships.

Our main idea this week was: "The remedy to envy is gratitude." If we can cultivate gratitude for the good things in our lives, then we can begin to free ourselves from envy's grip. Envy will prevent you from living your own life, and rejoicing in the blessing that God has given you. Gratitude can change your perspective, and ultimately change your life.

## Reading and Discussion

Use this scripture and these questions to frame your discussion as a group.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-4 and Genesis 25:29-34 together as a group.

1. Upon reading these two passages, what jumps out to you? Does any part of the readings connect to something you're experiencing right now?
2. Do you struggle with envy? If not currently, in what ways has envy affected you throughout your life? Either the envy of someone else, or your own. Share, if you feel comfortable.
3. Do you find it easy or difficult to have gratitude for the good things in your life? If you find it difficult – why do you think that is?
4. Spend the last few minutes of discussion in this way:
  1. Come up with a few practices that you can remind yourself to be grateful each day.
  2. Take a few minutes to say out loud the blessings in your life. As a group, pray and give God thanks for the good blessings that he's given you, and ask that he would continue to bless and provide for your group in whatever season of life you may be in.