

GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

Life application materials for use in Life Groups, Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.

A Study in Loving Uncomfortably

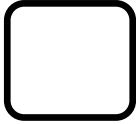
I Corinthians 8 – 10

Paul is dealing with “adiaphora” or middle things that God has neither forbidden nor commanded. The question with which the Corinthian congregation struggled was: *Can I eat meat that was sacrificed to an idol?*

The “middle things” that we deal with are as numerous as the sands on the sea. They are reflected in our congregation’s core values. What is the right level of mission support? What is the best way to worship? What ministries best show authentic care to our members and our community? How do we best support families? What does generosity or excellence look like? This two-week study of *Loving Uncomfortably* will prepare us for difficult discussions about living the intentional life of love.



- 1. Read I Corinthians 8:1-3.** Paul begins this discussion with comments about love. How do you feel when you interact with someone who is very knowledgeable about a subject but does not show you love?
- 2. Read I Corinthians 8:4-13.** Your conscience is like a judge making its decision based on God’s law as you understand it. To sin against your conscience is to sin against what you believe God wants you to do. Your conscience is “weak” when you have a misunderstanding of God’s law.
 - a. Who were the “weak” in this discussion about food sacrificed to idols?
 - b. If eating food sacrificed to idols was not forbidden by God, why would it be so destructive to their spiritual life if they ate food sacrificed to idols?
- 3. Read I Corinthians 9:1-18.** Paul uses himself as an example of choosing to protect the conscience of others, even if it meant limiting what he would do. What are the “rights of an apostle” that Paul freely gave up for the good of his ministry in Corinth?
- 4. Read I Corinthians 9:19-23.** Paul became like a Jew, like a person not having the law, like a person who is weak, all to save some. What are some of the cultural divides in our society today? How can you become “like” someone of a different political party, of a different racial background, of a different age group? How can you follow Paul’s example and give up some of your “rights” to show people “uncomfortable love”?
- 5. Close with the Lord’s Prayer, celebrating our unity as children of our Heavenly Father.**



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points.

Love Uncomfortably

I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some (1 Corinthians 9:22).

1. Experience Uncomfortable Love (Acts 9)

- a. Uncomfortable e_____ (Matthew 5:21-30)
- b. Uncomfortable c_____ (John 20:30-31)

2. Love Uncomfortable People (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)

- a. Uncomfortable to us

Examples: _____

- b. Uncomfortable because of us

Examples: _____



3. Love with Uncomfortable Actions

- a. Becoming like them with one limitation (1 Corinthians 10:1-13): _____
- b. Putting their needs before our own
 - i. Being uncomfortable in our focus on mission outreach
 - ii. Being uncomfortable in our diversity of worship languages

My Next Steps

- **Experience Uncomfortable Love:** Spend time with your Savior in daily Bible reading or the use of some daily devotion. A copy of the daily reading plan Pastor Pete is using is at the Welcome Center. There are variety of free devotions for individuals, families, teens, and members of the military available at WELS.net/serving-you/devotions or at TimeofGrace.org.
- **Love Uncomfortably:** Think of one person in your area of influence who makes you “uncomfortable” because of their beliefs, their actions, their politics, etc. How could you show that individual that you love them even though you may disagree with them?