

## GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

Life application materials for us in Connector 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?*

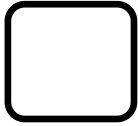
The “middle things” that we deal with are as numerous as the sands on the sea. They are reflected in our congregation’s core values. What is the right level of mission support? What is the best way to worship? What ministries best show authentic care to our members and our community? How do we best support families? What does generosity or excellence look like?



We began this study last week, reading I Corinthians 8-9. This week we read I Corinthians 10.

- 1. Read I Corinthians 10:1-4.** God’s Old Testament people had some amazing experiences as they came out of Egypt.
  - a. Talk as a group about the events that are mentioned here.
  - b. What are some of the spiritual experiences that you treasure most?
- 2. Read I Corinthians 10:5-10.** In this discussion of “middle things,” Paul warns against overconfidence. Do you recall some of the events Paul mentions? (See Exodus 32:1-6; Numbers 25:1-9; Numbers 21:4-9). What might tempt you to be overconfident in your spiritual walk?
- 3. Read I Corinthians 10:11-13.** Why do we as Christians need both the warning of verse 12 and the promise of verse 13? (Hint – look at Galatians 5:17.)
- 4. Read I Corinthians 10:14-22.** In the Lord’s Supper, we “participate” or have fellowship with or share in the body and blood of Christ. Describe how you feel after experiencing this “participation.”
- 5. Read I Corinthians 10:23-33.** The previous section explained it was wrong to participate in idol worship and sacrifice. However, if an unbeliever sacrificed an animal at a pagan altar, and then invited you to their home to eat some of the meat from that sacrifice, you were not wrong to eat. Except... if your eating led someone else to sin against their conscience. The question is always, “How will what I do affect others?”

As we think about our congregation’s core values, we will have differences of opinions on the right level of mission support, the support we give to one worship language or another, how best to show love and care to the people in our community, whether we will be part of a small group or volunteer. How can this discussion about “middle things” help us as we deal with those differences of opinion?



# NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

## The Intentional Life: Love Each Other (Galatians 6:1-3, 7-10, 14)

### + Let's Carry Each Other's Burdens +

Introduction: St. Paul's Core Value #3: **We value authentic care.** We believe that God cares deeply for all people both inside and outside our faith community. We, therefore, seek to show our love and concern for others in tangible and significant ways. *"I care for all people."*

#### I. The opportunities are numerous.

- A. Christians belong to t\_\_\_\_\_ families.
- B. Paul describes the Christian caught in a sin like an a\_\_\_\_\_ caught in a t\_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Paul pictures the Christian restoring someone like a d\_\_\_\_\_ resetting a b\_\_\_\_\_ bone.
- D. As you carry each other's burdens, w\_\_\_\_\_ out that you, too, are not t\_\_\_\_\_.

#### II. Our pride gets in the way.

- A. When we are aware of a fellow Christian caught in a sin, we tend to...
  - look down our noses at them, believing that we are b\_\_\_\_\_ than they are, or
  - convince ourselves that it is n\_\_\_\_\_ of our b\_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Often we choose to live according to the i\_\_\_\_\_ of our sinful nature.
- C. God warns us that he cannot be d\_\_\_\_\_, and we will *"reap destruction"* (v. 8) if we live according to the sinful nature.

#### III. Christ's love compels us.

- A. Jesus assumed our burden of s\_\_\_\_\_ and made it his own.
- B. Jesus' death on the cross is our m\_\_\_\_\_.
- C. We carry each other's burdens by giving others what they n\_\_\_\_\_ more than anything else.
- D. It is OK to b\_\_\_\_\_—not in ourselves but in Christ.

Conclusion: May God give each of us a servant's heart.

### + Next Steps +

**Memorize** Galatians 6:14 – *"May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

**Pray** that the Holy Spirit would give you the strength and resolve to restore gently those whom you love who are *"caught in a sin"* (Galatians 6:1).

**Commit** to learning more about and/or plugging in to a support group or small group at St. Paul's to fulfill your godly mission to *"carry each other's burdens"* (Galatians 6:2) by *caring for all people* (Core Value #3).