



Working for Justice,  
Peace and Holiness

Discovering ways to help you see people as Jesus does, seeking justice and peace.

## REVIEW

Recap on your experience of the challenge. Ask the following questions:

### How did it go? Was it helpful?

If you weren't able to try the challenge, explore the question:

### Where and how did you experience God last week?

## JUST LYFE ENGAGE

We are loved by God. Because we are loved by him, we can engage with a hurting and lonely world. We are called to roll up our sleeves and be the hands and feet of God – that we might be like Christ in our homes, our communities and our world.

## READ

### 1 Corinthians 1-13

## Love

<sup>1</sup> What if I could speak all languages of humans and of angels?

If I did not love others, I would be nothing more than a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

<sup>2</sup> What if I could prophesy and understand all secrets and all knowledge?

And what if I had faith that moved mountains? I would be nothing, unless I loved others.

<sup>3</sup> What if I gave away all that I owned and let myself be burned alive?

I would gain nothing, unless I loved others. <sup>4</sup> Love is kind and patient, never jealous, boastful, proud, or <sup>5</sup> rude.

Love isn't selfish or quick tempered. It doesn't keep a record of wrongs that others do.

<sup>6</sup> Love rejoices in the truth, but not in evil. <sup>7</sup> Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails!

Everyone who prophesies will stop, and unknown languages will no longer be spoken. All that we know will be forgotten.

<sup>9</sup> We don't know everything, and our prophecies are not complete.

<sup>10</sup> But what is perfect will someday appear, and what isn't perfect will then disappear.

<sup>11</sup> When we were children,

we thought and reasoned as children do.

But when we grew up, we quit our childish ways. <sup>12</sup> Now all we can see of God is like a cloudy picture in a mirror.

Later we will see him face to face. We don't know everything, but then we will, just as God completely understands us. <sup>13</sup> For now there are faith, hope, and love. But of these three, the greatest is love

Contemporary English Verse - CEV

## REFLECT

Setting the scene:

- ▶ Paul writes this magnificent chapter on love to a church in Corinth. Corinth was an unsavoury place – a place of excess, sexual license and dominated by the temple of Aphrodite – the goddess of love!
- ▶ This chapter was never written for weddings! It is centered between a lengthy discourse

on spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12–14). Paul reminds the Church that love, faith and hope will outlive the gifts and that the gifts are nothing without love.

- ▶ As Paul is painting a picture of true love (perhaps in contrast to all that Aphrodite stood for) he is perhaps also painting a picture of Jesus – the embodiment of outgoing, long-suffering, self-giving, self-effacing love.

- ▶ What are the 'shockers' and 'blockers' for you in this passage?
- ▶ How easy to you find it to be loved and to love others?
- ▶ How can we begin to embody love and engage with the world?

## RESPOND

Engage challenge: As a group, create a challenge to help you to develop a heart of love and compassion and to engage with your community and globally.

**Challenge ideas:**  
If you struggle to come up with your own challenge then why not try one of the following...

### 01 Reconciliation

If you have fallen out with someone or are currently experiencing a difficult relationship with someone at work, home, church or other social context, why not make the first move towards reconciliation? It might be appropriate to say sorry, ask for forgiveness or simply to state that you want to work towards

improving the current situation. If you know of others in this situation – could you be the one that could help bring them together and find away to restoring peace?

### 02 Tune Up. Pray Up

Make it a priority to watch the news this week. As you watch also make it a priority to pray for situations and people. As you read the national and local papers, bring the issues of pain, suffering and tragedy to God. As you surf news websites – stop to pray and commit it all to God. You might also take the time to write to your MP about local issues that are of a concern to you or contact a relief agency to find out how you can support their work.

### 03 Neighbours

In a society where few of us ever meet, let alone get to know our neighbours – find time this week to get to know the people you live next to. Invite them over for a drink, a meal or a BBQ. Spend time together and enjoy each others company. See if you can find ways to work together or help out with decorating, baby-sitting, gardening and other simple ways to build relationship. Sometimes asking a favour or for help is a good way to begin a relationship!

*'Let us not be satisfied with just giving money. Money is not enough, money can be got, but they need your hearts to love them. So, spread your love everywhere you go.'* [Mother Teresa](#)

### Don't Forget

1. To record your experience of the challenge so that you can accurately share it with your lyfe group when you next meet. You might like to text/tweet each other throughout the experience!
2. Consider posting your created challenge on the lyfe facebook site for others to view.

### More resources on 'Just Lyfe'

- [Listen to video interview with Andy Clasper - Executive Director of Micah Challenge](#)
- [Read interview with Shane Claiborne](#)
- [Read 'lyfe story' biographies on Mother Teresa and William Wilberforce](#)
- [Recommended listening – You Have Shown Us available from Kingswayshop.com](#)

### GROUP PRAYER:

You might like to commit to praying for each person in the group this week as you explore ways to become more engaged with themes of compassion, love, peace and justice.