

What's coming up in middle school @NCC:

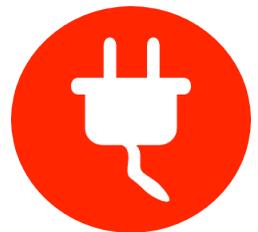
- **Jump 6 • Monday, March 9 • Talent Night Continued!** The fun continues! Tune in to see who the winners of this years talent night is! There will be prizes for all so be sure to come and bring a friend. 6:30-8:00pm in Lower Court. Don't forget, checkers will be open!
- **Vertical Edge • Tuesday, March 10 • Campus Night!** What if your name described who you are? What would your name be? Join us tonight for community, activities, worship, and discussion about the greatness of God. Bring a friend and some change because checkers is open! 7:00-9:00pm, West Court.

march 7/8 lesson

Series: The Empowered Church - Part 3 of 4

Lesson: The Love of Christ Lived Out

Key Concept: The proper and effective use of all spiritual gifts within the church will always be an expression of godly love.



Chew Time

- Read Luke 15:8-31



Set the scene:



A) Read Acts 4:32-37

³² All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. ³³ The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. ³⁴ There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them ³⁵ and

bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.

³⁶ For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means "Son of Encouragement"). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. ³⁷ He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles.



B) 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Love Is the Greatest

1. Ask this question: "Who is the person you most admire?" (Not including Jesus!)

- ▶ Why do you admire that person?
- ▶ What is his/her most outstanding quality?

2. Did any of the people you admire have "love" as his/her most outstanding quality? Why is love so important?

3. Read **1 Corinthians 13:1-3**

¹ If I could speak all the _____ of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

² If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. ³ If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

- ▶ We have been talking about spiritual gifts and yet as you look at these three verses, what good do the spiritual gifts really do without love?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

⁴Love is patient and kind. Love is not _____ or _____ or _____⁵ or _____. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. ⁶It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. ⁷Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

- ▶ Does the person whom you admire the most have any of these qualities? Which ones? Does he/she possess all of these qualities? Do you know anyone who does?
- ▶ Can any person actually be fully like this?
- ▶ What about Jesus?

5. Read 1 Corinthians 13:8-10

⁸Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! ⁹Now our knowledge is _____ and _____, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! ¹⁰But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless.

- ▶ What outlasts all spiritual gifts? When will spiritual gifts disappear?

6. Read 1 Corinthians 13:11-12

¹¹When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. ¹²Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will _____, just as God now knows me completely

- ▶ As you grow up, how do you change?
 - ▶ Do you still talk like you did when you were first learning to talk?
 - ▶ Do you still think like you did when you were little?
 - ▶ Do you still make decisions like you did when you were younger?
 - ▶ Just as you change as you grow physically, so you change as you grow spiritually.
7. Read **1 Corinthians 13:13**. ¹³ *Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.*
- ▶ Of faith, hope and love, which is the greatest? Why do you think that is?
8. Keep your Bibles open and look again at I Corinthians 13:4-7. Take turns going around the room and saying which of these qualities of love are easiest for you. Go around again and say which are the hardest.

C) Focus on Patient

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, with “1” being not patient at all, and “10” being extremely patient, how would you rate yourself and why?
2. What kinds of situations, or people, cause you to lose patience?
3. In **1 Corinthians 13:4** we are told that: **“Love is patient...”**

Read **Ephesians 4:2**

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love.

- ▶ Why might it be important for Christian people to develop the quality of patience in their lives?
4. Read the following passages and talk about how Jesus demonstrated patience in the different situations.
- a) **Matthew 20:29-34**

Jesus Heals Two Blind Men

²⁹ As Jesus and the disciples left the town of Jericho, a large crowd followed behind. ³⁰ Two blind men were sitting beside the road. When they heard that Jesus was coming that way, they began shouting, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!”

³¹ “Be quiet!” the crowd yelled at them.

But they only shouted louder, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!”

³² When Jesus heard them, he _____ and _____, “What do you want me to do for you?”

³³ “Lord,” they said, “we want to see!” ³⁴ Jesus felt sorry for them and touched their eyes. Instantly they could see! Then they followed him.

b) Matthew 19:13-15

Jesus Blesses the Children

¹³ One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could lay his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him.

¹⁴ But Jesus said, “Let the children come to me. _____! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.” ¹⁵ And he placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left.;

c) Mark 6:30-34

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

³⁰ The apostles returned to Jesus from their ministry tour and told him all they had done and taught. ³¹ Then Jesus said, “Let’s go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.” He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn’t even have time to eat.



³² So they left by boat for a quiet place, where they could be alone. ³³ But many people recognized them and saw them leaving, and people from many towns ran ahead along the shore and got there ahead of them. ³⁴

Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had _____ because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

5. What do the following verses tell us about God's patience toward us?

a) **2 Peter 3:9** The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be _____, but wants everyone to _____.

b) **Psalm 103:8** The Lord is _____ and _____, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.

6. Read **Luke 6:27-30**

Love for Enemies

²⁷ "But to you who are willing to listen, I say, _____ your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. ²⁸ _____ those who curse you. _____ for those who hurt you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. ³⁰ _____ to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back.

- ▶ Why would it require patience to live out what these verses call us to do?
- ▶ Which of these would be the most difficult for you to do?

7. Read 2 Timothy 2:24-25

²⁴ *A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be*

_____ *to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with*

_____ *people.* ²⁵ *Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth.*

- ▶ What are we told to do in this passage?
- ▶ What are we told is the purpose of the instructions that we are given?

8. Read Colossians 3:12

¹² *Since God chose you to be the _____*

_____ *he loves, you must _____ yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.*

- ▶ What do you think it means to “clothe yourself with patience?”
- ▶ What are some choices that we can make in order to become more patient?

The following passages deal with a life “clothed” in patience:

a. Philippians 4:8-9

⁸ *And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. _____ your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. _____ about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.* ⁹ _____ *putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.*

b. Ephesians 4:32

³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

c. Hebrews 12:2

² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

**What is one thing
that you will commit
to do during the next week,
to develop greater patience
toward others?**