****

**Love is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Icebreaker: Find a heart that matches your heart, introduce yourself and share a favorite Valentine memory.

**SMALL GROUP**

# *Read Genesis 2:18*

# *The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”*

Q: Introduce yourself at your tables

Q: What does this verse mean to you?

**BIG BOARD:** List answers and discuss as large group

**The History of Valentine’s Day:**

http://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day

Valentine’s Day, New Year’s Eve, weddings, etc. can all be difficult times of the year for those who are single and not dating. Being constantly reminded you are alone can often lead us to bouts of crying, Hallmark or romantic movie marathons, eating loads of chocolate, or worse case attempting to find love in any place you can—with someone saved or lost.

But while it is a tough time of year, having community is at an all-time high need. Without community, a support group of friends, folks you can give a quick call, cry on a shoulder or laugh at yet another Valentine’s day alone, you might go insane. Jesus knows and understands our heart. He knows and understands our desire to be married. He was single, loved, admired and respected women and adored children. Although marriage would not be in his path, his journey or a part of his purpose, it does not negate that he might have desired to be married. Desiring to be married and have kids is not a sin. So, I know Jesus understood and understands. His heart aches with us.

But unlike Jesus, what if you are called to be married but for some reason it hasn’t happened? Well tonight at Pray for a Mate we are going to discuss a familiar set of versus on “Love”. Why not, this is the love month, right?

**DISCUSSION ONE: SMALL GROUP**

*Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8*

***4****Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.****5****It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.****6****Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.****7****It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.* ***8****Love never fails.*

**Let’s break it down further:**

*Read 1 Corinthians 13:4: Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.*

Q: How is love patient?

Q: How is love kind?

Q: How does love not envy?

Q: How does love not boast?

Q: How is it not prideful?

• Now, put the name of who you hope to marry in place of the word “Love”, i.e. My husband to be is…my wife to be is….

*Read 1 Corinthians 13:4: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is patient, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is kind. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_does not envy, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ does not boast, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is not proud.*

• Now, put YOUR name in place of the word “Love”.

*Read 1 Corinthians 13:4: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is patient, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is kind. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_does not envy, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ does not boast, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is not proud.*

• You would like your future spouse to be patient, kind, not envy, no boast but *are you* patient, kind, not envious, not boastful?

• Write down the answers you hear of each person in your group. Turn into a form of prayer.

**PRAYER TIME ONE**:

The leader will start your time of prayer. Pray 12-15 minutes. If you finish early, please be quiet to allow others to finish.

**DISCUSSION TWO: SMALL GROUP**

*Read 1 Corinthians 13:5-6* ***It*** *does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.*

Q: How does love honor others?

Q: How is love not self-seeking?

Q: How is love not easily angered?

Q: How does love not keep a record of wrongs?

Q: How does love not delight in evil?

Q: How does love rejoice in truth?

• Now, put the name of who you hope to marry in place of the word “Love”, i.e. My husband to be is…my wife to be is….

*Read 1 Corinthians 13:5-6 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_does not dishonor others, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is not self-seeking, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is not easily angered, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_keeps no record of wrongs. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ does not delight in evil but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_rejoices with the truth.*

• Now, put YOUR name in place of the word “Love”.

*Read 1 Corinthians 13:5-6 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_does not dishonor others, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is not self-seeking, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is not easily angered, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_keeps no record of wrongs. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ does not delight in evil but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_rejoices with the truth.*

• You would like your future spouse to honor others, be not self-seeking, not easily angered, keep no record of wrongs, not delight in evil but rejoice in truth but are you not self-seeking, not easily angered, keep no record of wrongs, not delight in evil but rejoice in truth?

• Write down the answers you hear of each person in your group. Turn into a form of prayer.

**PRAYER TIME TWO:**

The leader will start your time of prayer. Pray 12-15 minutes. If you finish early, please be quiet to allow others to finish.

**DISCUSSION THREE: SMALL GROUP**

*Read 1 Corinthians 13:7-8* ***It*** *always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.*

Q: How does love protect?

Q: How is love trust?

Q: How does love hope?

Q: How does love perseveres?

Q: How does love not fail?

• Now, put the name of who you hope to marry in place of the word “Love”, i.e. My husband to be is…my wife to be is….

*Read 1 Corinthians 13:7-8* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_always protects, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_always trusts, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_always hopes, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_always perseveres. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_never fails.*

• Now, put YOUR name in place of the word “Love”.

*Read 1 Corinthians 13:7-8* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_always protects, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_always trusts, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_always hopes, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_always perseveres. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_never fails.*

• You would like your future spouse to protect, trust, hope, persevere and not fail but do you always protect, trust, hope, preserver and not fail?

• Write down the answers you hear of each person in your group. Turn into a form of prayer.

**PRAYER TIME THREE:**

The leader will start your time of prayer. Pray 12-15 minutes. If you finish early, please be quiet to allow others to finish.

**Q: What are you going to walk away with?**

**Close Large Group Prayer**